

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

No. XL.—VOL. II.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1856.

PRICE TWOPENCE.
STAMPED, 3d.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THERE never was a period when so many important questions were in suspense, as the present. A great matter decidedly settled one way or the other, is satisfactory. But just now, the "public mind" is as restless as a weather-cock in shifting winds, and turns, first to Paris, then to America, then to the East, with the most harassing vivacity. In such a crisis, we feel it impossible to confine ourselves to one question, and shall indulge in a familiar disquisition on the leading topics generally.

As for the Conferences, we confess that we feel as much confidence in Clarendon as we should in anybody at England's disposal for the mission. It is not his interest to woo peace, for his Ministry owes its existence to war. His talents are not only good, but are not exclusively "Parliamentary." We have said before, that it is next to impossible, now-a-days, in England, to find a man who can do anything in politics but "explain," "twit Hon. Members opposite," "divide the matter into three heads," and go through all the rest of the dreary work of parliament. Above all things, a diplomatist should be a man of the world; and Lord John failed, because he was, and is, and has ever been, a *pedant*; the exact opposite of the character required. It is well known that Napoleon, at a period when he wanted to negotiate with Austria, was obliged to fall back on the ancient *noblesse*, and send M. de Narbonne. This was a gentleman who was no orator, and who was such a stickler for etiquette, that even on a campaign, he had half-an-hour devoted every morning to his pig-tail! But among great swells and elegant potentates, he was one of themselves, and he ruled them (as mankind are ever ruled) by *sympathy*. Lord John, full of his own importance, precedents, and the "example of England," ludicrous in his appearance (which is no small objection alone), was, of course, humbugged immediately.

And here let us anticipate a possible cry, to the effect that Clarendon is to get no more than Russell agreed to take. We must be prepared if we have peace, to hear Lord John trading on it, as he once traded on the war. The positions are entirely different. Sebastopol has been taken, the fleet sunk, and the docks destroyed. Come what

may, these are facts which Russia must ever rue, and which have brought her to the present negotiations. Lord John would have spared her town; Lord John would have allowed her fleet to roam the Euxine as proudly as it did the day it made the dastardly attack on Sinope, for which we had to thank Aberdeen. His proposal was, that Russia should have *eight ships there*, to England's four. Lord Clarendon goes to discuss the neutralisation of the Black Sea; and unless that is secured, and proves to be something quite different from eight ships *in esse*, and any number *in posse*, the war is likely to go on. We feel quite at ease on the subject, knowing that this is the quiet resolution of the English people.

The Government have acted very wisely in keeping the war preparations going on. All peace rests at bottom, in a world like ours, on readiness for war. Two hundred gun-boats, a twenty million loan, a popular feeling rather warlike than otherwise—however yielding Russia looks, these are the powers which secure nations their property and dignity. The world is ruled by force; and this, on examination, is not so painful a fact as it looks. In the long run, moral force and physical force prove identical. They grow together and decline together.

When Athens ruled the Mediterranean, and beat the Persians, her social life and intellectual life were also in their highest vigour. When Rome ruled the world, her whole life was at its best. With defeated armies, revolted provinces, &c., co-existed degraded literature and corrupted morals. In short, the physical force is the sign of the other, as strength is a sign of health. And our descendants, if they find themselves unwilling to fight, will find themselves reading sham epics, governed by blockheads, and fond of buffoons. For all which reasons, we are glad to see the public take kindly to the notion that another campaign may be required; though we have said before, and now repeat, that if Russia be *bonâ fide* inclined to accept the Points, it is our business not only to welcome her, but to welcome her cheerfully and cordially.

The danger of an improper acceptance of terms is not in our opinion great. We believe that, as far as Government is concerned, our

honour will be properly looked to. But as danger from Russia grows distant, danger from America draws near.

Both peoples, American and English,—or rather, noisy sections of both peoples—have acted shabbily. It was not fair of the Yankee agitators to be so very sharp upon us while we were in a war. It was not fair of English agitators to grow more threatening to America, just in proportion as peace with Russia seemed probable. Unfortunately if we do not have a Russian peace, the Yankees will become more noisy; and if we do have one, our statesmen will grow more stubborn. We cannot blame Mr. Roebuck, for having endeavoured to represent the public feeling in the matter. The Yankees are too apt to think that the English are supercilious in their notions about them; though, whatever dislike our upper classes entertain of republicanism, they sincerely respect prosperity in general; while the other classes (who think on such subjects at all) vaguely admire the West as a region offering ambition a better chance than Europe, and industry a readier employment.

These feelings, and a hatred of gratifying Bomba, Beelzebub, and the powers of darkness generally by the sight, and the enormous money interests involved, and the Yankee consciousness of an undefended sea-board; and the English dread of a "struldbrug" in command, who might lose the whole fleet in sight of Boston; and (let us hope) some higher feelings altogether, ought to secure a pacific settlement with America. Yet, we should not rely too much on all the "influences" we hear of. "Blood" did not prevent the Peloponnesian war from being one of the most awful in the world. A "common literature" is a pleasant affair, but the world is scarcely yet cultivated enough, to make Higgins spare Brown, for the sake of Tennyson and Thackeray. After the Syracuse failure, many of the Athenian prisoners (Plutarch says) owed kindly treatment to being able to "spout" Euripides to their captors; yet the popularity of that poet did not hinder the expedition. We are also at the mercy of etiquette, and proper etiquette, since we cannot submit to humiliation, if proper apologies prove insufficient.

In this crisis we think our ambassador, Mr. Crampton has a chance



RELIEVING NIGHT-GUARD IN THE CRIMEA.

of distinguishing himself; and we invite him to consider it. Were we Mr. Crampton (which, thank God, we are not), we should ponder the story of our old friend Curious and the Gulf. It is a mythical affair, no doubt; but it has a splendid moral. We should think of our blunders,—of our imprudent speeches to Hertz,—of the difficult position of our Government and country,—and we should resign. We should sacrifice ourselves to a healing quiet, as Socrates sacrificed a cock to Æsculapius. We should press the offer on Government. Mutual interchanges of politeness might follow; and all would soon be forgotten.

Lords Lucan and Cardigan have been serving the cause of peace, since England is not likely to favour war, if war is to bring such gentlemen into commands. Vindications are all very well; but we like vindications which contradict the facts complained of. Now, who denies that our troop-horses had to gnaw each other's tails? Not even the dismal flunkey who wrote "Whom shall we hang?" for he tried to be funny about the fact; feeling, perhaps, glad that *higher quadrupeds* should have been so reduced. Was our cavalry destroyed? and, who commanded our cavalry? These two questions are all with which we have any concern; and till Lucan and Cardigan bring entirely new evidence to destroy that of a public commission inquiring on the spot, we shall remain of opinion that any "honours" bestowed on them have no more moral and symbolic value than rings in an African's nose.

Perhaps it is not unnatural that, while honours are bestowed as they are, we should have the prerogative of the Crown, in the matter of its highest honours, called in question by the House of Lords. We are sorry that people do not appear to feel the full importance of the matter at stake, in the question of Life Peerages. One thing is certain: the bold abrogation of any power of the Crown, however ancient, or however out of fashion, paves the way for future abrogations of the ancient powers of other institutions. This, one would think, would be a point of view worth the consideration of Conservatives.

RELIEVING NIGHT GUARD IN THE CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

This time we cannot help it, and must swell the number of those who go up and down wearily, repeating weary sayings—1. "This is a world of change;" 2. "Life is but a span." How else shall we express the feelings of the reader, as resignedly he looks upon our picture of Relieving Guard—looks also back upon the past year, and remembers how many noble soldiers were relieved during the night by cold, famine, and fatigue, and went off duty for evermore—quietly! It is hard to keep down indignation at the contrast; indignation that the soldiers of to-day should be making themselves so extremely, so obviously uncomfortable. We are inclined to resent their abundant mufflers, their exaggerated greatcoats; we take offence at their mittens, and are almost angry at full rations. We feel somehow (quite fallaciously) that they have no business with comforts or necessities, one half of which would have "saved alive" thousands of those heroes who were, and are no more. But then, again, with something of the fatalism (and *laissez faire*) of our Ottoman friends, we resignedly recall the sentiments quoted at the head of this paragraph; wishing only that in this case he would have been a little brisker with its changes, or that for our Alma and Inkermann heroes, the span of life had bridged over a little further into the time of plenty.

The terms in which the soldiers were commonly called out for night duty, last winter, were pretty significant of the duty itself. "Number Two Company" (or No. 3, as the case might be), "Number Two Company for the Slaughter-house!" Thus hawled corporal or sergeant at tent doors to the soldiers within, hungrily frizzling an ounce of pork on an ounce of fire, or confectioning lukewarm porridge of coffee berries. Perhaps, these soldiers had returned from sixteen hours' duty, at dawn that morning. Nevertheless, out they turned, clad in nothing worth mentioning, into the driving rain and snow, and down into the trenches, i.e., slaughter-houses, and here they remained till night again fell, without food, warmth, or shelter. Then so many as were left alive returned; and (we have heard soldiers aver) "that hungry, that they would gladly have gone and ventured their lives against the first Russian they could cut off, if there had been a chance of finding a whole-ome piece of bread about him after he was slain."

It is true that the duties of those who mounted guard were neither quite so arduous nor distressing; though the famished and ragged sentinel, freezing at his post—as sometimes actually occurred—might possibly think the greater danger in the trenches compensated by the chances of a little excitement. Now, however, that state of things is entirely altered. The guard turn out almost as regularly and comfortably as at St. James's. Well fed, well shod, and wrapped to the ears, the sentinel takes up his post, and here at last can afford to whistle of the "girl he left behind him" without drawing too much upon his feelings. In addition to this occupation, he makes meteorological observations; surreptitiously smokes; starts, and watches with bated breath as a lean dog steals along in the dark, and then gets up his martial enthusiasm by imagining what he just would have done had it been really a Russian! Little danger and few incidents attend him; but he keeps a warier eye for surprises as the time draws near for the relief party to come up. Returned to camp, he "tucks in" his honest rations, turns in to comfortable quarters; and if he does not then recognise some improvements in his condition, for which the press should be thanked, he must be a very inconsiderate British soldier indeed.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE accouchement of the Empress is now looked for very early in March. Petitions have been adopted in various parts of France, praying that the infant to which the Empress will shortly give birth, be named, if a Prince, King of Algeria.

The Emperor has given a private audience to M. J. Oppert, who had the honour of laying before his Majesty the results of the French expedition into Mesopotamia, and exhibiting the maps and plans which he has brought back of those distant countries.

Much interest is excited in Paris by the presence of the European Plenipotentiaries. The Champs Elysées were very crowded on Sunday, it being expected they would be seen. Lord Clarendon, Count Buol, and others, made their appearance on the promenade. But for matters relating to the Peace Conference, we refer our readers to another column.

SPAIN.

THE Cortes have adopted a bill for calling out 16,000 men for filling up the ranks of the army. The affair of the Puerta del Sol has not been yet settled.

AUSTRIA.

THE Emperor of Austria reviewed the garrison of Vienna on the 13th, the Empress being present, seated in a phaeton.

The Emperor has charged Count Buol with an autograph letter addressed to Napoleon III., and, on the Count's taking leave before setting out for Paris, the Emperor is reported to have addressed him nearly in these terms:—

"You, my dear Count, know as well or better than any one the policy I have followed in the present question, and the intentions which I have always entertained. In order to carry them out you need not adhere entirely to the letter of your instructions. All that you do will I know be well done, if you contribute, as I hope, to the re-establishment of peace on a solid basis, and which will be realised if it be a peace honourable for all parties."

At the monetary conference now going on at Vienna for the purpose of establishing a system of unity for the whole of the Germanic Confederation, it has been decided, rumour says, to take the value of silver as basis, to create a silver coin of three florins equivalent to two thalers, and to fix the legal standard at the nine-tenths. It is also in contemplation to admit

the metrical pound of the Zollverein (half a kilogramme), as unity of a weight.

RUSSIA.

THE funeral of Field-Marshal Paskewitch took place on the 4th at Warsaw.

The marriage of the Grand Duke Nicholas with his cousin, the Princess Alexandra Petrovna, of Oldenburg, took place on the 6th inst.

It is positively stated that the Czar will shortly arrive at Warsaw, whence he will proceed to Berlin. General Gortschakoff has arrived at Warsaw, and assumed the functions of Lieutenant of the Emperor in Poland.

An order of the day has appeared at St. Petersburg, making an important change in the military administration. The Grand Dukes Nicholas and Michael are invested with functions, the former as Inspector-General of Engineers, and the latter as Grand Master of the Artillery. Generals Dahn and Korff, who have up to this time held those posts, will now act as deputies to the Grand Dukes.

A sum of 11,000 silver roubles (44,000*l.*) has been appropriated to the construction of fortifications on the coast near Archangel.

The Russian "Gazette de l'Académie" announces the departure of Colonel Lake and Captain Thompson from Tiflis to St. Petersburg, and the inability of General Williams to leave the former city by reason of illness.

The Russian journals are earnestly discussing the necessity for the construction of more railways in the empire. "It is certain," says one writer, "that with railway communication between the Crimea and the rest of the empire, the Anglo-French army would never have disembarked."

SARDINIA.

THE Sardinian Chambers have voted the budget without opposition. General della Marmora has been entertained by the senators and deputies of the Chambers, at a magnificent banquet, which, in fact, was a demonstration illustrative of the popularity of the war. The Gallant General was to leave for the Crimea on the 20th.

TURKEY.

THE SULTAN has published a Hatti-scherif, in which he grants to Silistria, as a reward for the courage and perseverance shown by the inhabitants during the siege, the following favours:—1. Silistria and its inhabitants are to be exempt from all taxes for three years. 2. The inhabitants will not for that period have to furnish any recruits for the army. 3. All those who were wounded during the siege will receive a pecuniary indemnity; and 4. All those who took part in the defence will receive a commemorative medal.

AMERICA.

THE CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY.

THE following is the first article of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, in the proper interpretation of which a difference exists between our Government and that of the United States:—

"Article 1. Neither party will ever obtain or maintain for itself any exclusive control over the contemplated canal. Neither will ever erect or maintain any fortification commanding the same or vicinity thereof. Neither will occupy, or fortify, or colonise, or assume, or exercise any dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast, or any part of Central America. Neither will use any protection which either affords, or may afford, or any alliance which either has or may have, to such with any state or people, for the purpose of erecting or maintaining any such fortifications, or of occupying or colonising Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast, or any part of Central America, or of assuming or exercising any dominion over the same. Neither will take advantage of any intimacy, or use any alliance, connection, or influence that either may possess with any state or people through whose territory the canal may pass, for the purpose of acquiring or holding, directly or indirectly, for its own citizens or subjects, any unequal rights or advantages of commerce or navigation."

The British Government holds that the meaning of this article is prospective; that it refers to any future attempts at colonisation or dominion; and that had it meant the renunciation of the British protectorate in Mosquito, and the British settlements in Central America, this renunciation would have been expressly stipulated. The American Government contend that the article implies the entire abandonment of the British settlements which existed at the time of the treaty, beyond those fixed for the settlement at and around Belize, on the mainland of Honduras.

ELECTION OF A SPEAKER.—According to advices from New York to the 6th inst., Congress was organised on the 2nd, on the adoption of the plurality rule, by the election of Mr. Banks as Speaker. The last ballot stood—Banks, 103; Aiken, 100; Scattering, 13. Subsequent to the declaration of the result, and the announcement by the tellers that Mr. Banks was chosen Speaker, objections were started by the Know-Nothings as to the legality of the whole proceedings; whereupon a resolution endorsing the action of the House was offered and adopted, 39 Members dissenting. On the 4th the usual course of swearing in the Members took place.

The official organ of the Government remarks:—"Although the result is one that every rational man must regret, yet, as the Republicans have a known majority in the House, and therefore are entitled to a Speaker, there is reason for acquiescing, inasmuch as it enables the machinery of Government once more to move on."

The War.

OPERATIONS IN THE CRIMEA.

COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF THE DOCKS.

THE following despatch from General Codrington to Lord Panmure, gives the details connected with the destruction of the docks of Sebastopol. The despatch is dated Head-Quarters, Sebastopol, Feb. 2:—

"My Lord.—The destruction of the docks of Sebastopol is now completed; the sides of the last dock were blown in yesterday morning, small parts of the wall here and there only remaining. Thus the whole of the canal of entrance and north docks in charge of the French, the basin in our mutual charge, and the south docks in English charge, are separate but shapeless masses of dirt, heavy broken stones, split beams of timber, and shattered gates protruding from the heap of confusion.

"The labour of destruction has been difficult; these fine works were formed in the middle ravine at its outlet, in an inner and sheltered part of the harbour, one of the natural water-courses from the plateau on which we are encamped. This end of the ravine, about 700 yards from its mouth, seems to have been filled in so as to create a great artificial dam of earth, which, with the steep banks on each side, form three sides of a raised enclosure looking down upon the docks. A solid stone wall, much struck by shot, crowns this sort of natural square; the fine but shattered barracks, standing still higher on the left, with the sheds and dockyard buildings, the masting shears, and a long quay to Fort Paul in front jutting into the harbour, show how well adapted all was for its purpose. It is now a picture of destruction, desolation, and silence; there lies against the quay the half-sunken hull of a vessel; and, in the harbour beyond, the only things breaking the surface of the water are the lower masts of the sunken ships of war.

"The drainage of the water of the middle ravine must, however, pass through to the harbour somewhere, and it was this that has so much impeded the shafts; for the water from rains often stood two feet high over the floor of the docks, and thus, of course, filled the shafts themselves.

"Amidst great difficulties of cold and wet, very severe frost at one time, and perpetually recurring pressure at another, the work went steadily on; and great praise is due to all those concerned, the Engineers and Sappers, parties of the Royal Artillery, the 15th Regiment, and latterly of the 48th Regiment. These parties return to their duty to-morrow after constant and laborious work.

"The casualties have been but six, of which two only have been fatal, and one man of the 48th Regiment lost by foul air in a shaft; after several vain attempts by Major Nicholson, other officers and men, themselves descending at great risk, the poor fellow's body was brought up, but life was gone.

"The volta battery, we must confess, did not always succeed; it seems to require great nicety in preparation, but in those cases in which I saw it succeed, the effect was perfect—ignition and its result, the shake of the ground, the heaving up of the mass, seemed to be instantaneous.

"The destruction of other things will continue,—I have, &c.,

"W. J. CODRINGTON, General Commanding."

DESTRUCTION OF FORT ST. NICHOLAS.

Feb. 4.—At about half-past twelve o'clock Marshal Pelissier, attended by his staff, drove through the Light Division camp along the Woronzow Road. Just about the same time up came General Codrington and his staff, and a group of Sardinian officers of rank. General Codrington went on to the Redan; Marshal Pelissier paused in front of Picket-house Hill, on a slope which commands an excellent view of the town. Here were assembled a large number of officers, English, French, and Sardinian; and to the right and left, on every elevated point, numerous groups were seen,

while Cathcart's Hill was crowded with spectators. The cause of the gathering was to witness the final blow given to the work of destruction on the south side by the blowing up of Fort Nicholas by the French. The explosions were most successful; the extremities of the galleries went first, and almost immediately the centre, when, amidst a dense volume of smoke, one of the formidable obstacles to the approach of our fleets during the siege crumbled like dust into nothingness. The Russian batteries were silent both before and after the blowing-up of the fort, contrary to the practice during the operations at the docks.

THE DOINGS AT KAMIESCH BAY.

General Laders reports, under date of the 26th ult., that the Allies continue to fortify the bay of Kamiesch. He mentions also that some artillery of out-posts had taken place on the left flank of the Russian army.

RUSSIAN ACTIVITY—HEALTH OF THE ALLIES.

Feb. 2.—The Russians continue to fire from the northern forts of St. bastopol.

The health of the Allies is excellent. The number of sick has diminished by one-half.

A SUNDAY IN SEBASTOPOL AND ITS ENVIRONS.

This was one of those cloudless and lovely days worthy of the month of May, and as there was little duty to do (it being Sunday), and as the ground was an improved state for riding and walking, the country was covered with rambles of all ranks. Innumerable groups of officers rode into Sebastopol after church service, and a stream of soldiers, sailors from Balaklava, army works corps men, and all manner of nondescripts, on foot and horseback, flowed in the same direction. The Russians were quiet till about two o'clock or somewhat later. About that time there was a flag of truce in the harbour (these are frequent now, chiefly for the exchange of prisoners of letters), and as soon as that was over and the flag down a shell came sailing across to the English part of the town, pitching and exploding a little beyond the south-eastern corner of the dockyard. Subsequently to this, the enemy, tempted, doubtless, by the number of visitors they must have discovered, threw in several shells. Coming in from Sebastopol over Picket House Hill, the camp had quite a homely and snug appearance, as it lay basking lazily in the Sabbath sunshine, its numerous smoking chimneys telling of Sunday dinners in preparation; and one could hardly fancy that, if all we hear be true, in a few weeks' or months' time this extensive military city will have disappeared from the earth's surface, leaving a blackened and ashes-strewn desert.

THE BRITISH FORCES IN THE CRIMEA.

The several regiments forming the army in the Crimea are distributed as follows:—

The Light Division, 1st Brigade—7th and 23rd Fusiliers, 33rd and 34th Regiments, and the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade; 2nd Brigade—19th, 77th, 88th, 90th, and 97th Regiments; two Batteries, E and Y, of Artillery. The First Division, Brigade of Guards—3rd Battalion of Grenadier Guards, 1st Battalion Coldstreams, and 1st Battalion Scots Fusilier Guards; 2nd Brigade—The 9th, 13th, 31st, and 56th Regiments, and X Battery of Artillery. Second Division, 1st Brigade—3rd (Buffs), 56th, 55th, and 95th Regiments; 2nd Brigade—41st, 47th, 49th, and 62nd Regiments; B and G Batteries of Artillery. Third Division, 1st Brigade—4th, 14th, 39th, and 50th Regiments; 2nd Brigade—18th, 28th, 38th, and 44th Regiments; E and W Batteries of Artillery. Fourth Division, 1st Brigade—17th, 20th, 21st, 57th, and 63rd Regiments; 2nd Brigade—46th, 48th, 68th, and 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade. Highland Division, 1st Brigade—42nd, 79th, 92nd, and 93rd Highlanders; 2nd Brigade—1st and 2nd Battalions 1st Foot, 71st and 72nd Highlanders—the former is at Yenikale, A and H Batteries of Artillery. Royal Artillery—11 Field Batteries, A, B, E, F, G, H, P, Q, W, X, Y; two Heavy Brigades—J and V Batteries (Karanyi); two and a half Troops Horse Artillery (A, I), Karanyi; and 29 Companies Siege Train, 18 of which are at Balaklava Heights. Royal Engineers, 1st (Balaklava), 2nd, 3rd, 4th (Sebastopol), 7th, 8th, 9th (Highland Division), 10th (Light Division), and 11th (Sebastopol), Companies of Sappers and Miners. At Balaklava—18 Companies of Artillery and the 82nd and 89th Regiments. The Cavalry are stationed at Scutari, the Ottoman Contingent are at Kerch, the Osmanli Irregulars at Varna, the British German Legion at Kululek.

POSITION OF THE RUSSIAN FORCES IN THE CRIMEA.

The following is said to be an exact statement of the disposition of the Russian forces in the Crimea:—

General Commanding-in-Chief, General Gortschakoff. Chief of the Staff, General Kotzebue. Corps of Grenadiers—1st Division towards Eupatoria; 2nd and 3rd Division Simferopol. 3rd Corps, General Souchoganicki.—7th on the Korales Plateau; Reserve Division stationed on the Heights of the Belbek; 8th, Mackenzie Plateau; 9th North-side Post-house. 4th Corps, General Osten-Sacken.—10th, on the Touzla; 11th, Ezizola Plateau; 12th, on the Belbek; 14th, on the Boulganak. Lancers, General Radziwill.—Before Eupatoria. Dragoons of General Wrangel.—Eupatoria. 2nd Division of Dragoons, in the North Steppes. 11th Regiment of Cossacks of the Don.—Steppes. One Brigade of Hussars.—Boulganak. With militia to each regiment of the line, the whole strength is from 105,000 to 120,000.

THE PEACE CONFERENCES.

A CERTAIN amount of surprise was manifested at Paris on Thursday last week, at the early arrival of Baron Brunow.

It was not expected that he would have so promptly availed himself of his passport; indeed it was understood that the members of the Congress should arrive a day or two only before proceeding to business, in order to avoid, as much as possible, any appearance of desiring to create influence.

The presence of a Russian Envoy once more installed in the well known Hotel of the Faubourg St. Honoré has excited some curiosity, and a few groups stationed themselves there the other day to see the show. They were disappointed, however, so far as Baron Brunow is concerned; the only exalted personage that showed himself in the street was Murphy, the Irish giant, who, it appears, is tall enough to light his pipe at the street lamps.

Baron Brunow, it appears, keeps himself a good deal on the reserve. He has been visited by several political personages, but has seen very few, and to none has he been in the slightest degree communicative. "You may suppose (says one correspondent) that people are anxious to learn his opinion on the result of the conferences, but this opinion he keeps to himself. To hear him speak, one would suppose that he was as innocent of diplomatic business, or of the state of the present negotiations, as an infant a week old. He avows his ignorance with such charming humility, and looks and speaks so innocently! He is reported to have said to a personage who will probably have something to do with the conferences, that he really knew nothing whatever of the intentions of his Government beyond what the public at large knew; that his ministry is but a subordinate one; that Count Orloff is the only man who knows the *dernier mot* of his Imperial master, and that, in fact, he is as unacquainted with what is going on as the merest stranger."

On Friday Baron Brunow had a long interview with Count Walewski, and on Saturday Count Cavour had an interview with the same Minister.

Lord Clarendon arrived at Paris on Saturday evening, as did also Count Buol, and the former had an audience of the Emperor of the French on Sunday and the latter on Monday, when Count de Cavour and Baron de Brunow were also presented.

Aali Pacha left Constantinople on the 12th, on board the French steamer *Le Sané*, and is expected to reach Paris by the 22nd; and the Conferences are expected to commence on Monday next. On the day of the opening, a grand dinner, at which will be present the Plenipotentiaries, the French Ministers and Presidents of the chief bodies of the State, will be given by Count Walewski.

If, as is said, the signatures at the Conferences occur in alphabetical order, the arrangement will be as follows:—Austria, France, Great Britain, Russia, Sardinia, Turkey.

The Paris correspondent of the "Independence Belge" says:—"Russia concedes the non-reconstruction of Bomarsund, but she desires the neutralisation of the Isle of Heligoland, and wishes, in order to avoid their destruction, that the works on the north side of Sebastopol be considered as a land fort, the complete ruin of the south side of the city having removed all that affect its maritime character. As to Nicolai, Russia, it is said, does not expect the suppression of this important dockyard (which can be devoted to the more exclusively to merchant vessels, since it was at Sebastopol that the vessels hitherto were armed) will be insisted upon. Nicolai can no more be considered as belonging to the coast of the Black Sea than Rouen, in France, to that of the Ocean. Besides, the consuls of the Maritime Powers would be able to insure a rigorous observance of the treaty."

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.

On Monday, the 18th inst., the Duke of Norfolk died of paralysis, after a protracted illness, at his residence, Arundel Castle, Sussex, in his 65th year. His Grace, Henry Charles Howard, 13th Duke of Norfolk, Premier Duke in the Peerage of England, was also Earl of Surrey, Arundel, and Norfolk, and held the ancient baronies of Fitzalan, Ciun, Oswaldestrie, and Maltrevers; he was born August 12th, 1791, being the only child of Lord Edward Howard, Esq., a distant cousin of the then Duke, by Lady Elizabeth Bellamy, third daughter of Henry, last Earl of Fauconberg, who was divorced from her husband soon after her son's birth, and re-married to the late Earl of Lucan. At that time, Mr. Howard lived in a comparatively obscure station; but on his accession to the dukedom in 1816, his son became Earl of Surrey, and their apparent to one of the noblest of English titles, and the one most intimately mixed up with the history of the court and country during the last 300 years. It is well known that the father of the late duke was a strict Roman Catholic, and that he most zealously and rigidly adhered to the religion of his forefathers. Though at that time excluded from his hereditary seat in the House of Peers, and for many years incapacitated from holding another high office annexed to his dukedom, we mean that of Hereditary Earl-Marshal of England, an office granted in perpetuity to the 8th duke, and invested with full power in the Court of Chivalry, conjointly with the Lord High Constable of England. It was only so late as the year 1824, that the 12th duke obtained a special Act of Parliament, restoring him to the exercise of his office as Earl-Marshal, from which his religious opinions had, till then, disqualified him. Five years later, in April, 1826, the passing of the Catholic Relief Bill gave to the Duke the full benefit of a seat in the House of Lords; and in the following month, the subject of this present memoir, then Earl of Surrey, took his seat in the House of Commons as member for his father's pocket borough of Horsham, the late Mr. Harst retiring in his favour. He was the first Roman Catholic member returned to Parliament for an English constituency; and he continued to sit for Horsham till the dissolution of December, 1832, when he was chosen for West Sussex, together with Lord George Lennox. In the House of Commons he rarely spoke, but contented himself with supporting the liberal measures of Earl Grey and Lord Melbourne, including the Reform Bill, with a silent vote. He made, however, one exception to this rule: the possession of an hereditary title and a vast amount of "broad acres," led him to look with suspicion on the repeal of the Corn Laws, and accordingly he voted steadily against that measure as long as he held a seat in the Lower House. He continued to sit for West Sussex till the general election in 1841, when he retired, at the same time being called to the Upper House in his father's barony of Maltrevers. Since that time his Grace has taken but a very slight part in public matters, either in or out of Parliament, and has chiefly confined his attention to his official duties as Earl-Marshal, and also, successively, as Master of the Horse to her Majesty, Lord Steward, Treasurer of the Household, and Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard. On one occasion our readers will remember (and the remembrance will perhaps summon up a smile) that his Grace, at an agricultural dinner in Sussex, recommended the use of "curry-powder" as an excellent diet for the working-man when he should be reduced to poverty by the operation of the repeal of the Corn Laws. For the last two years, the Duke has been mostly kept a prisoner to his house, by a chronic illness, at Glossop or Arundel Castle. The last occasion on which he appeared in London was at the marriage of his daughter, Lady Adeliza Howard, last autumn, with Lord George Manners, M.P. for Cambridge-shire. His other daughter was married to Lord Foley, in 1847; and he has left two surviving sons, Henry Granville Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, born in 1815, who was M.P. for Arundel from 1837 to 1851, and for Limerick city for a few months in 1851-52, and who is married to the youngest daughter of Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, G.C.B., by whom he has five daughters and two sons: the eldest son, Lord Maltrevers, now Earl of Arundel and Surrey, was born in 1847. The late Duke's other son is Lord Edward George Fitzalan Howard, now M.P. for Arundel, and formerly for Horsham, who married, in 1851, Miss Augusta Talbot, daughter of the late Honourable George Henry Talbot, and niece of the late Earl of Shrewsbury. The wife of the late Duke, who survives his Grace, was Lady Charlotte Leveson Gower, daughter of the first, and sister of the present, Duke of Sutherland.

The late Duke abandoned his connection with the Roman Church at the time of the Papal aggression in 1850; but we are informed that in his last moments he was attended by the Rev. Mr. Tierney, the Roman Catholic Chaplain of Arundel Castle, and received at his hands the last rites and sacraments of that church, in the presence of his family.

It is not our place to enter here into a detailed account of the Howard family; we may mention, however, that although the title of Norfolk has not always been vested in the Howard family, the Earldom of Arundel has come down to the present Duke by legitimate descent from the early part of the 12th century, if not from an earlier date, as a feudal honour by inheritance, and possession of the Castle of Arundel without any other creation, according to the old legend, which says—

"Since William rose, and Harold fell,
There have been Earls of Arundel;
And Earls old Arundel shall have,
While rivers flow and forests wave."

There were two successive creations of the Earldom of Norfolk prior to 1312 A.D., and upon the extinction of the second creation, Edward I. created his fifth son Earl of Norfolk, and his daughter was created, by the same King, Duchess of Norfolk for life—a fact of some little interest at the present moment. In the same year, Thomas Lord Mowbray was raised to the Dukedom of Norfolk, but the title became extinct again in A.D. 1475. The second son of King Edward IV., better known as Duke of York, who was murdered in the Tower by Richard III., was created Duke of Norfolk also. The title was conferred a few years later, viz., in 1483, on Sir John Howard, an eminent adherent of the house of York, and maternally great grandson of a Plantagenet. He was also created Hereditary Earl-Marshal of England. Dying on Bosworth Field, he was succeeded in his Dukedom by his eldest son, the Earl of Surrey, who rose to great eminence in the state, and commanded the forces at Flodden, and whose daughter was the mother of Anne Boleyn. The next Duke was Thomas Howard, Admiral of England, father of the hapless Earl of Surrey, one of our earliest and tenderest poets, who was executed by Henry VIII. for quarrelling upon his shield the Royal arms of England. Surrey's eldest son was restored by Elizabeth to the Dukedom of his grandfather, but he died on the scaffold, for his presumed connection with Mary Queen of Scots. His son Philip died a prisoner in the Tower, leaving an only child, who was restored to his ancestral honours by James I. It was the eldest son of this Duke who was the common progenitor of the 11th Duke of Norfolk, who died in 1816, and of the father of the subject of our present notice. He died in 1652, leaving a son Thomas, who was restored to the dukedom by act of Parliament as 5th duke, in 1664, with the original precedence of his ancestor, the 1st Duke of Norfolk; and in the following year was confirmed in the same dignity by another act, which included reversionary clauses, granting the title with remainder to the issue of his grandfather.

The Duke of Norfolk, as Earl-Marshal, is head of the Herald's College, and enjoys the entire patronage of that establishment, which, at one time, ere the science of heraldry fell into disuse and disrepute, must have been most lucrative, and even now amounts in fees to a considerable yearly sum. It should be added, that the Duke of Norfolk, though undoubtedly head of the Howard family, is by no means its only titled member; the Earls of Suffolk and Berkshire are descendants of the second son, and the Earl of Carlisle from the third son of the 4th duke; and the Earl of Edingburgh traces his descent to the 9th son of the 3rd duke, attainted by Henry VIII., but subsequently restored; while a scion of the house of Howard, Ralph Howard, Esq., early in the 17th century, having sold his property in England, went over to Ireland and purchased from the Duke of Ormonde the estate of Arklow and Shelton, in the county of Wicklow, and became the founder of the Earldom of Wicklow. Among the untitled branches of the Howard family, who, in event of a failure of the present line, are in remainder, more or less nearly to the dukedom, are the Howards of Greystoke, and the Howards of Corby Castle, the latter of which branches is at present represented by Mr. P. H. Howard, who sat as member for Carlisle in several successive Parliaments.

ADAM BLACK, M.P.

THE return of Mr. Black for Edinburgh, of which he has long been a distinguished citizen, is one of those events which we should have been sorry to pass without notice; and we feel much gratification in presenting our readers with his portrait, which appears in another page, and with a brief memoir of his successful career.

Adam Black, "bookseller and publisher," as he is officially styled in the "Gazette," announcing his election as Member of Parliament for the city of Edinburgh, in the room of that accomplished poet, essayist, orator, and historian, whom he ever so steadily supported, is the son of a builder who by industry and integrity raised himself from a very humble position to circumstances of competence, if not of affluence. While struggling with the world, and exerting all his energies "to keep the wolf from the door" in the earliest part of his career, he nevertheless frequently straitened himself to give his three sons a respectable education; and it is doubtless to this circumstance that the new Member of Parliament owes in a great measure the development of the strong practical shrewdness and sound sense that have enabled him to attain his present proud position as representative of the most intellectual constituency north of the Tweed.

Mr. Adam Black was educated at the High School of Edinburgh; and after serving a due apprenticeship, he went into business as a bookseller; dealing in books, old and new, classical, English and Foreign, but chiefly in those required by the students at the University, in whose neighbourhood he first located himself. When the buildings for the New Post Office were erected, Mr. Black, who had prospered in his business, bought the vacated premises, and removed to the North Bridge, where he issued amongst other important works, the new edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica."

From an early period of his career, Mr. Black took an active part in the politics of his native city. And in the early part of the century, when the names of Reformer, Radical, Revolutionist, and Rebel, were almost synonymous, boldly sided with the little band of Liberals who stood up for Burgh Reform as the initiative to the larger measure of Parliamentary reform, which eventually crowned their long and persevering labours. On the failure of the well-known publishing firm of Constable and Co., the publication of the "Edinburgh Review" passed into the hands of Mr. Black, and thus drew the bands of the Whig "clique"—if we may use the words without offence—more closely around him. He has held many municipal offices; and been twice elected as Lord Provost of the city; an office which he filled with so much satisfaction to his constituents, that they subscribed and had his portrait painted by Sir J. Watson Gordon, to ornament the walls of the council-room. It ought, also, to be mentioned that the honour of Knighthood was offered to be conferred on Mr. Black, and declined. Mr. Black is now the proprietor, by recent purchase, of the copyright of "The Waverley Novels," and other works of Sir Walter Scott.

He is about seventy years of age, and of a strong wiry constitution; which, although he enters Parliamentary life somewhat advanced in years, gives his friends hope that he will for a considerable period be able to endure the wear and tear of the House of Commons. Although a Dissenter, of the Independent body, we believe Mr. Black is an advocate for the maintenance of the grant to Maynooth.

"During the whole of our political experience, which now ranges over a rather longer period than it is quite agreeable to remember," says a writer in the "Daily News," "it has rarely been our luck to encounter a man in whom practical sagacity and high principle have been more happily blended than in Adam Black. He is no modern conformer to Liberalism: what he is now he was in the dark days of Castlereagh and Sidmouth. That an overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of Edinburgh are liberal in their politics, is a fact which none can doubt who recalls the results of all the elections for that city since the passing of Earl Grey's Reform Act. There have been different shades of politics among the Edinburgh Liberals. Some cling to the eclectic doctrines of the 'Edinburgh Review'—these are principally the members of the learned professions and the circles among which they move. Some adopt the sturdier notions, to propagate which the 'Scotsman' newspaper was originally established; these are in general the trading classes. Some, perhaps, go beyond both. Mr. Black, by his social connections, belongs to the second set of politicians, participates in most of their views, and has shared in their labours. But, by his long connection as a publisher with the leading Whig literati, he has often been called upon to act as a medium of communication between the first and second of the three sub-divisions of Edinburgh Liberals we have enumerated. This is, perhaps, the most trying position in which an honest politician can be placed; and, with frequent opportunities of narrowly observing Mr. Black, we do him no more than justice when we declare that we have uniformly found him as upright and firm as he is clear-sighted. This is exactly the kind of man who is wanted in Parliament at present. Old questions have been settled, new questions are emerging, and many well-meaning Liberals are—from want of habits of independent thought and in-born moral courage—wavering and uncertain. Men are needed, to give the tone to their party, who possess sagacity to judge for themselves, and courage to act upon their convictions through good repute and bad repute. The electors of Edinburgh have acted wisely in delegating the charge of promoting their principles and interests in the Legislature, at such a juncture, to a man who combines both qualities in so high a degree as Mr. Black. Even in England the bold and uncompromising stand made by Mr. Black against narrow-minded sectarianism can be appreciated at present; but only those who know Scotland intimately can appreciate it at its full worth. His fellow-citizens, after bestowing upon him various grades of local distinction, have now conferred upon him the highest honour they can bestow. His past services have richly deserved it; and we firmly believe that his past life will prove to have been merely the prophetic mirror of the future."

SAMUEL WARREN, M.P.

HOWEVER many of our readers may dissent from the political creed of Mr. Warren, few, we feel sure, will dispute that, in a literary point of view, he is in the enviable position of being "known to fame." He is not, indeed, a voluminous author; but his works have been so extensively circulated and admired in this country, besides being published in America, and translated into the languages of continental Europe, that the learned Recorder of Hull is undoubtedly one of the literary celebrities of the period. His return to Parliament as member for Midhurst is, therefore, an event of some interest in its way; and it was certainly not without curiosity that the House of Commons saw another novelist take his seat on the Opposition benches, among the lords and baronets, and "large-acre" squire, and purse-proud merchants, who recognise the Earl of Derby as their political chief.

Denbighshire has the distinction of including Mr. Warren's native place within its boundaries. He was born in the year 1807, and originally intended for the medical profession. His father, a Methodist minister—who has since, we understand, taken orders in the church—being quartered for a term in Edinburgh, Mr. Warren studied at the University of that city; and before leaving in the autumn of 1828, had the gratification of being awarded, for his "Patriot Martyrs," the prize for English poetry. Whether or not Mr. Warren, with the stirrings of genius, began to feel within him the consciousness of coming greatness, it is not of course for us to say; but at all events he seems to have had no scruples in bringing himself under the notice of great men. He made the acquaintance of Professor Wilson by finding his way into that eminent man's house, in a manner which certainly showed some deficiency of self-respect; he wrote to consult Sir Walter Scott about his literary effusions, under circumstances which showed an utter want of delicacy; and when he resolved upon studying for the bar, and was advised to go to some eminent "special pleader" for instruction, he had no hesitation in applying to Lord Brougham.

Notwithstanding these extraordinary eccentricities, Mr. Warren soon had worthy achievements of which to boast. While pursuing his legal studies, he commenced his "Diary of a late Physician," and, no doubt with a prescience of rising one morning and finding himself famous, set about the difficult task of getting the manuscript into print. As generally happens, it was up-hill work. "The first chapter of the 'Diary'—the Early Struggles," writes its author in a preface to the fifth edition, "was offered by me successively to the conductors of three leading magazines, and rejected as unsuitable to their pages, and not likely to interest the

public. In despair, I bethought me of the great northern Magazine. I remember taking my packet to Mr. Cadell, in the Strand, with a sad suspicion that I should never see or hear any more of it; but, at the close of the month, I received a letter from Mr. Blackwood, informing me that he had inserted the chapter, and begging me to make arrangements for proceeding immediately with the series."

The first part of this remarkable work appeared in August, 1830; and from this date fortune favoured Mr. Warren's aspirations. The "Diary," consisting of sketches characterised by variety of incident, fidelity of delineation, and knowledge of the human passions, was carried on at intervals till the year 1837; and, somewhat later, "Ten Thousand a Year," a totally different work, began to lead new attractions to the pages of "Blackwood." Many of our readers, no doubt, will remember the eagerness with which the story, infinitely superior to its predecessor in interest, was devoured, as the Magazine made its monthly appearance; and for two years the reading public continued to regard it with an interest which must have been most gratifying to the vanity of the author.

Mr. Warren now threw off his incognito, and, at a later period, published a third novel, entitled, "Now and Then," which was not quite so good as people expected from a writer of his reputation. As has been remarked by a high authority, he is not a novelist by necessity of nature or love of the art, and his story is far from being the principal object of his care—he rather aspires to be a realist, writes as if to "justify the ways of God to man," and even ventures to trace the hand of Providence working out a frightful doom upon vice and folly, but, in due time, always sustaining and vindicating the pure and good.

Besides giving the world these interesting works of fiction, Mr. Warren, towards the close of 1851, published "The Lily and the Bee," an apologue of the Crystal Palace, which few pretend to comprehend. He had, moreover, contributed largely on general subjects to the columns of "Blackwood," and enriched with several important works, the literature of that profession of which he is a member.

Meanwhile Mr. Warren—albeit the law is a jealous mistress, and regards with aught but favour those who are even temporarily seduced from her service by the gratifications of authorship—plodded on, first as special pleader, and then as counsel, to considerable legal celebrity, was dignified with the silk gown of a Queen's Counsel, and appointed Recorder of Hull—a post which he has occupied with considerable ability.

As may be gathered from his various works, Mr. Warren has long taken an interest in politics. Even when in his teens, he dedicated to the people of England a pamphlet against Catholic Emancipation; and some ten years ago, when a vacancy occurred at Finsbury, he presented himself as a candidate. This happened at a season when the magnates were all at their country seats; and Mr. Warren brought on himself a good deal of ridicule by stating in his address to the electors, that, in consequence of his friends being out of town, he was not quite prepared for a contest. At length, when Mr. Walpole took leave of the borough of Midhurst, to represent the University of Cambridge, the high literary qualifications, eminent abilities, and a character distinguished for truthfulness and integrity, indicated the author of "Ten Thousand a Year" as a fitting successor. Mr. Warren's canvass was quite successful; and when the nomination day arrived, he was elected without opposition.

In so far as regards personal appearance, Mr. Warren is a little man, with strongly-marked features. He generally wears spectacles; and has the look of being perfectly conscious of his own perfections. His vanity, it must be added, is excessive, and of that kind

"Which makes dear self on well-bred tongues prevail,
And I the hero of each little tale."

Indeed this weakness frequently leads him into absurdities, not easily overlooked even by his warmest admirers. As a speaker at the bar he is rather dry, and somewhat confused. In legal circles, he enjoys the celebrity of being unrivalled as a mimic, and, when on the Northern Circuit, often delights the bar mess with exhibitions of the power with which in this respect he is gifted.

Notwithstanding his failings (and who, after all, has them not? for what is man at his best estate?), we certainly are not sorry to see a person of Mr. Warren's probity and patriotism, exercising the functions of a legislator. Mr. Cobden, it appears, being an elector of Midhurst, was one of the earliest to receive a visit from Mr. Warren in the prosecution of his canvass. Like hundreds of others, Mr. Warren found the Leaguer a much more interesting and agreeable companion than he had expected. Their interview was a long one, and they parted on terms of more mutual goodwill than is customary among gentlemen prepared to oppose each other in Parliament. "Of course," said the oracle of the West Riding, "you know how much we differ, but I shall be glad to see you in the House of Commons."

Most people will, we believe, agree with Mr. Cobden on this point; and, though holding political opinions at variance with those of Mr. Warren, will not only express some degree of satisfaction at seeing him Member for Midhurst, but heartily wish him success in his capacity as a senator.

The portrait of Mr. Warren on the following page, is copied from an admirable photograph by Mr. Mayall of Regent Street.

PORTRAITURE BY PHOTOGRAPHY.—At the exhibition of the Photographic Society, Mr. Mayall (who has repeatedly given evidence of his skill in the portraits published in this journal) appears to have carried the day in a most decided manner. His pictures are marvellous specimens of the photographic process. The "Athenæum," a journal by no means likely to give premature commendation, says—"Mr. Mayall stands supreme in portraits, and is unrivalled for breadth, manner, and finish. Either from the character of his sitters, or the taste of his composition, his portraits appear more dignified, self-possessed, and aristocratic than those of any other photographer. The likenesses (the Cabinet Ministers) are particularly admirable. There is a grace and a bearing about the heads that raise them as far above the shilling bit of distortion as Titian's Senator is above one of Hudson's Aldermen." Mr. Mayall has recently been making great additions to his establishment. New galleries have been built, and are to be opened on Monday next, when Mr. Mayall hopes to have received the permission of her Majesty to exhibit to his patrons the photographic portraits taken of the Royal children.

LIVERPOOL FREE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.—At the adjourned meeting of the Town Council, Feb. 13, powers were given to the Free Library and Museum Committee to raise £20,000, the interest to be paid out of the Museum rate, for the purchase of land opposite St. George's Hall for the erection of the proposed new buildings, towards the construction of which Mr. W. Brown has promised £5,000.

NEW SERJEANTS-AT-LAW.—Mr. Hayes, of the Midland Circuit, Mr. Pigott, of the Oxford Circuit, and Mr. Wells, of the Norfolk Circuit, were sworn in on the 13th instant as members of the degree of the Coif, before the Lord Chancellor, in his private room at the House of Lords. They afterwards presented rings, according to custom, to her Majesty, to the Lord Chancellor, and other officers, with the motto, "Cedant arma togæ"—a delicate allusion to the expected advent of a peace.

A JUVENILE FANCY BALL.—Lady Stratford de Redcliffe lately gave a children's fancy dress ball at the British Embassy in Pera. The 200 children present included little Turks, Greeks, Albanians, Armenians, and Syrians of every race. All were in their richest costumes, chattering each in their own tongue, and dancing after their own fashion. With them were also the children of diplomatists, and of the Frank colony, dressed in every variety of picturesque costume, and speaking amongst them every language in Europe. At midnight the gay crowd were led away to their homes, some across the Golden Horn to Stamboul, others to villas on the Bosphorus, and others to the labyrinth of Pera.

MISS NIGHTINGALE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES."
SIR,—In your sketch of the life of the heroic and enviable Miss Nightingale, you represent her as superintending the "Governments Institution." It was the "Establishment for Invalid Gentlewomen," in Harley Street, the prospect of which I enclose, that she kindly gave her services to, for rather more than a year, and which she left for the Crimea, to increase the sphere of her usefulness—excellent, admirable woman that she is!

By giving your valuable assistance in making known this establishment, you would be the means of benefiting hundreds of invalids—gentlewomen in every sense of the word—who, from various causes, cannot obtain first-rate medical and other care.—Yours respectfully,

REMINISCENCES

OF THE

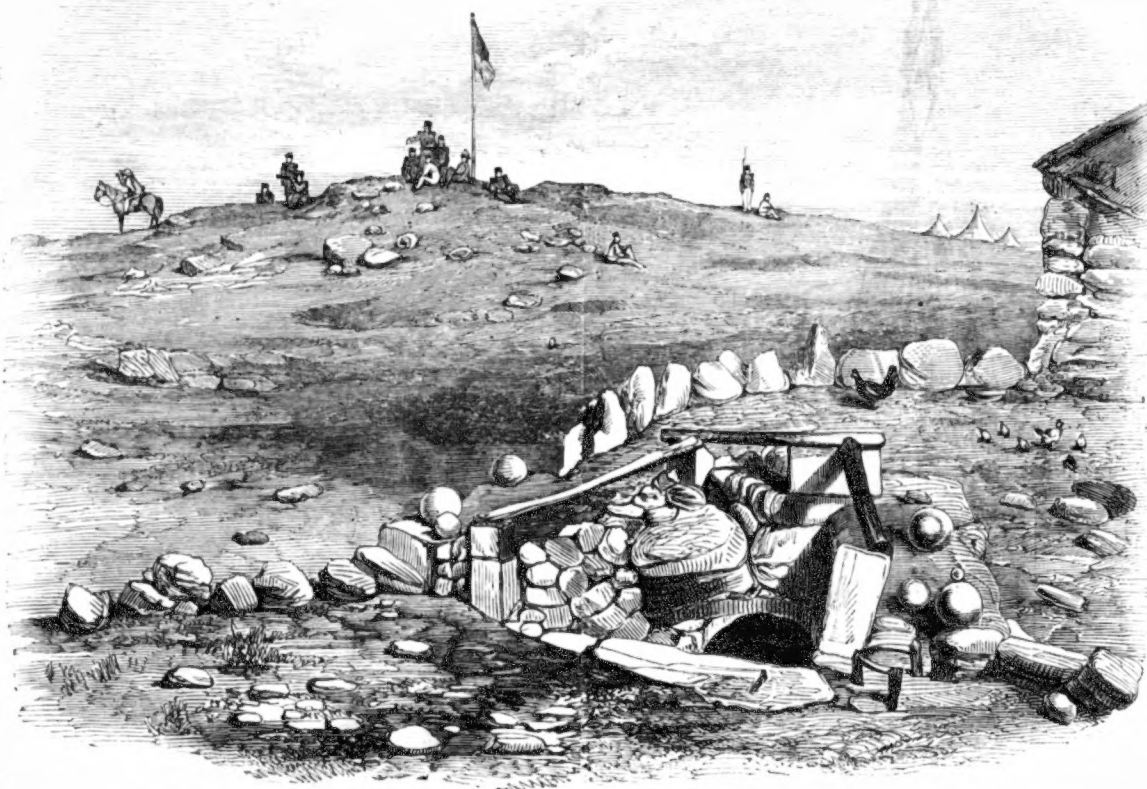
CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

NO. 4.—THE CAVE RESIDENCE OF SIR JOHN CAMPBELL.

EVERY one remembers that sad incident of the first Crimean campaign—the hurricane at Balaklava, when the ill-fated *Prince* went down with all hands on board; when ships dragging from their anchors, drifted and run aground; smashing one another to pieces, as if to render complete that destruction which the winds and the waves had only partially effected. The dangers on shore were but slight compared to those of the maddened ocean. The rain beat heavily against the sides of the frail tents, whose canvases flapped violently in the rushing wind; gradually they began to rise and flutter, the pegs yielded, the tent-poles bent like fish-irons—soon the inevitable “crack” was heard, and the torn and struggling canvas tossed wildly about in the storm. Only three marquees survived the violence of the blast, in the words of an eye-witness, “Mackintoshes, quilts, india-rubber tubs, bed clothes, and sheets of tent canvas, went whirling like leaves in the gale, towards Sebastopol. The shingle roofs of the out-houses were torn away and scattered about the camp; large arabas and wagons were overturned, men and horses knocked down and rolled over and over; and on the cliffs high above Balaklava, the storm carried tents, clothing, everything in fact, right across the bay, while the terrified occupants clung wildly to the earth to avoid experiencing the same fate.”

During this terrible night, Sir John Campbell took refuge from the violence of the elements, in a cave under ground, on the side of Cathcart's Hill. Sir John Campbell, it will be remembered, fell in the unsuccessful attack upon the Redan, on the fatal 18th of June. “Poor Sir John Campbell,” writes Mr. Russell, “displayed a courage amounting to rashness. He sent away Captain Hume and Captain Snodgrass, his aides-de-camp, just before he rushed out of the trench, as if averse to bring them into the danger he meditated, and fell in the act of cheering on his men. His shattered frame was found the following day, close to the abatis, and the same evening it was buried on Cathcart's Hill, his favourite place of resort.”

Our artist informs us that this cave, which General Bentinck took possession of after Sir John Campbell's death, was a simple, square excavation in the solid rock, with nothing noteworthy about its interior aspect. Cathcart's Hill received its name from the circumstance of the gallant General Cathcart using it as a look-out station, and from its being his regular morning resort while the siege was going on. The flag of the division, a red and white burgee, will be noticed floating from a staff on the top of the hill.



THE CAVE RESIDENCE OF SIR J. CAMPBELL, AT CATHCART'S HILL, BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—(FROM A SKETCH BY JULIAN PORTCH.)

Here, a look-out man was regularly stationed during the siege, to observe the movements of the enemy; with his telescope he could sweep their front from west to east, and could observe all that was going forward on the north side almost up to the river Belbek. Cathcart's Hill is now remembered chiefly for its cemetery, within the rude walls of which, rest the bodies of some of the bravest and noblest of England's sons, who will be mourned for, in many a desolated home, long, long after the blessings of peace have made themselves manifest throughout the land.

THE HOTEL DE VILLE AT HAMBURG.

THE accompanying engraving represents the design selected for the purposed Rathhaus, or Hotel de Ville, at Hamburg. It was furnished by Mr. George Gilbert Scott, an architect of great celebrity. Some of our readers may remember seeing a drawing of the design in the Exhi-

rope. It is represented as one of the most important Gothic works of the day, and will cost when completed about £150,000; the proposed internal height of the edifice will exceed any English cathedral except York and Westminster; and its proposed spire being only second in tallness to that of Strasbourg. The design is after the character of the last periods of German architecture. The Rathhaus will cost about the same sum as the church of St. Nicholas. In addition to these, Mr. Scott has furnished designs for the cathedral church of St. John's, Newfoundland; and at home the church of Doncaster, which is now being replaced under his immediate superintendence. Mr. Scott has been largely engaged in works of restoration, for which his archaeological learning well qualifies him. He is also the official architect of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. But we have said enough of Mr. Scott's past achievements. The Rathhaus here represented, is in every respect worthy of his architectural reputation. Though the business to be transacted within the

bition of the Royal Academy. The view here given is that of the principal front, and the building, when finished, will be a complete Government house, embracing all the various offices required for the different departments of the Government of an independent state, and a great commercial city like Hamburg.

Our readers will be interested in the fact that Mr. Scott, whose design has been selected for this new building, is the grandson of the author of the celebrated “Commentary on the Bible.” He was also one of the founders of the Architectural Museum, and a leading member of the School of Gothic revival in Architecture. He was born at Gawcott, near Buckingham, of which village his distinguished grandfather had been an incumbent. At an early age he manifested an enthusiasm towards old churches, which induced his father to place him with an architect. He devoted his whole time and talents to his favourite study, and with a success which is rare—for he now holds the first place in the modern school of Gothic architects. At an early age Mr. Scott began studying and sketching from ancient churches—little thinking that such designs would ever again be wanted. The first work which brought him into notice was the “Martyrs' Memorial” at Oxford, in 1842; it was immediately followed by the new church at Camberwell. His later works at Croydon, Leeds, and Liverpool display a maturer taste and a more advanced knowledge.

Mr. Scott was first introduced to the notice of the authorities of Hamburg in 1846, when the rebuilding of the church of St. Nicholas, which had been destroyed by fire, was entrusted to him, after a competition to which architects were invited from all parts of Eu-

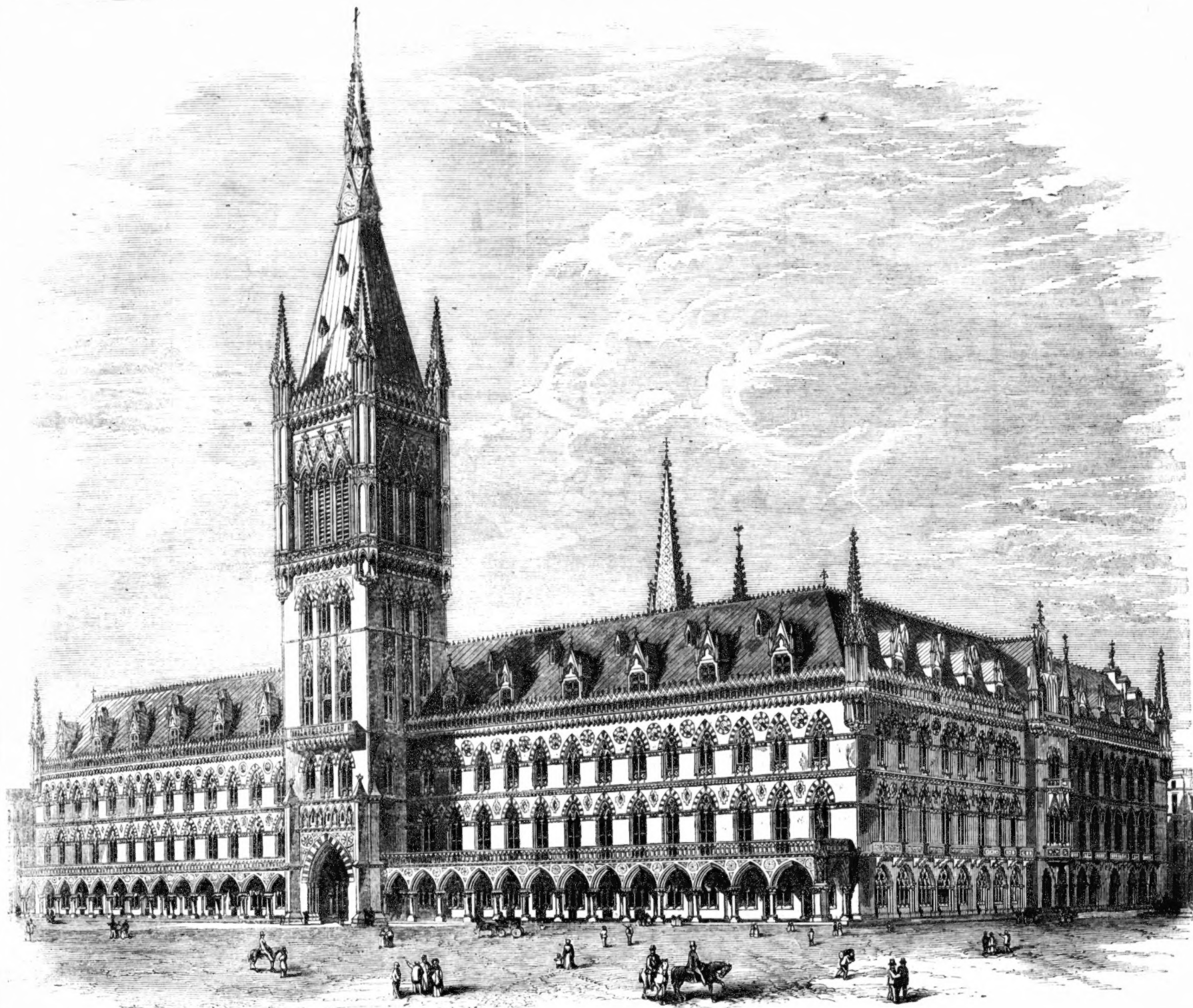


ADAM BLACK, M.P. FOR EDINBURGH.



SAMUEL WARREN, D.C.L., M.P. FOR MIDHURST.

(SEE PREVIOUS PAGE.)



THE NEW TOWN HALL, HAMBURG.—(G. G. SCOTT, A.R.A., ARCHITECT.)

building will be similar to that done in our own Mansion House—the magnificence, grandeur, and accommodation of the former will far surpass those of the latter. The edifice will be divided into various departments, of which the following is an enumeration:

1. That for the senate; comprising a large hall and several committee-rooms, offices, waiting-rooms, rooms for archives, &c.
2. That of the representatives of the citizens; consisting of a hall of great size, in which the senate and citizens meet every month for the dis-

cussion of matters of state; committee-rooms, and rooms for the representatives of the several parishes into which the city is divided.

3. The financial department; embracing that of direct taxes, those of indirect taxes, customs, excise, and stamps; offices for the regulation of trusteeships, the property-tax department, &c.
4. Law courts, both civil and criminal.

5. Miscellaneous public offices, such as offices for the regulation of partnerships, bankruptcy courts, the public archives, offices for matters relating to mortgages; those of the board of works; those for the registration of marriages, &c., and several other matters.

The Great Court, or "Gehege," will be used by merchants and others, who have business of a public as well as of a commercial nature; an off-shoot, in fact, of the Exchange, in the midst of the public offices.

CROSS FROM THE CHURCH OF ST. WLADIMIR.

Who is there that has visited Paris, and has not seen the Hotel de Cluny? The Englishman who "does" the smart city in a week, who breakfasts at the Café Corazza, lounges away his morning at the Louvre or the Luxembourg, saunters in the afternoon along the Champs Elysees or the Boulevards, dines at the Café de Paris, gives his evenings to the theatres, and his nights to the Maison Dorée; yet finds time, we should hope, to pay an hour or two's visit to that interesting collection of mediæval art which the learned Somerard spent the best years of his life in getting together. The Hotel de Cluny has few if any equals in continental Europe, and in this country what have we worthy of comparison with it? Nuremberg has a similar, but by no means so perfect a collection. In the Hotel de Cluny exists all that is known of the ancient Palais des Thermes, founded by the Roman emperor, Julian, and for a long time the residence of the kings of France of the first race. The more modern Hotel, which is now undergoing a thorough exterior restoration, is said to have been built by an Abbé de Cluny so far back as the year 1334; still we should consider many of the ornamental details to belong to a much later date. It is an admirable specimen of enriched picturesque domestic architecture.

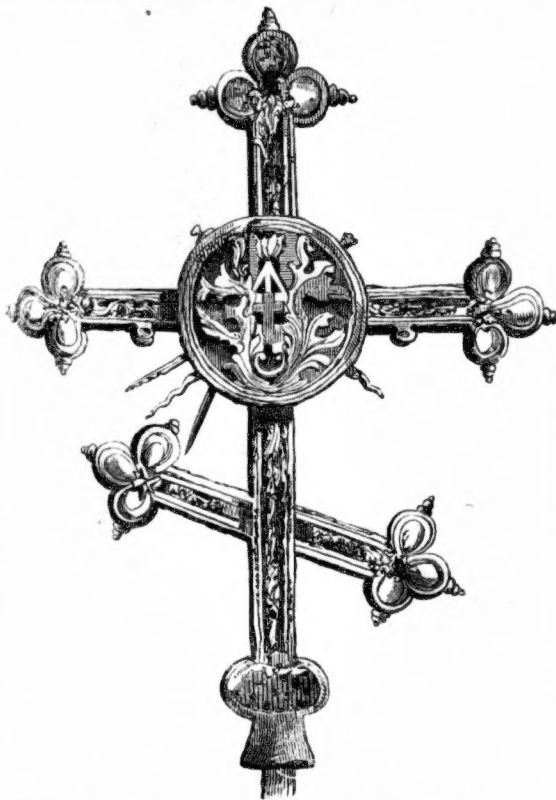
Every Frenchman almost has a love, if not a taste, for art. Perhaps we should speak more correctly if we said, he has the "bump" of art acquisitiveness. Consequently, no sooner was the war-trumpet sounded, than thousands of eager hands were stretched forth ready to clutch at any prize that might serve to enrich some French museum. At Bomarsund numerous paintings and other objects were taken possession of, most of which were sent to the Hotel de Cluny. Of the spoils of Sebastopol, as yet only one trophy has been deposited there. This is the cross from the cupola of the church of St. Vladimir, an engraving of which is here presented to the reader. It is about six feet high, and is painted a pale lemon colour. It bears the marks of the balls by which it has been struck, and several of the branches of the aureola are broken away.

THE POISON STRYCHNINE.

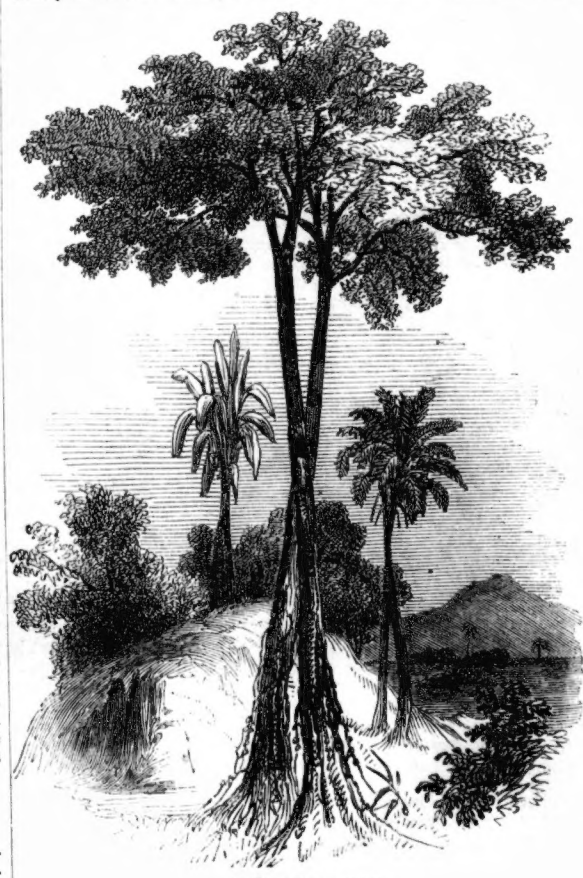
MR. PEPPER, of the Polytechnic Institution, has displayed his usual activity in supplying the public with useful information, and prepared illustrations and descriptions of the deadly poison which is suspected, in one

instance, to have proved so fatal at Rugeley. And by means of this valuable and well-timed lecture, we are enabled to lay the following particulars before our readers:—

Many will remember Mr. Danby's picture of the Upas tree, exhibited some years since at the Royal Academy. This terrible plant, to which was

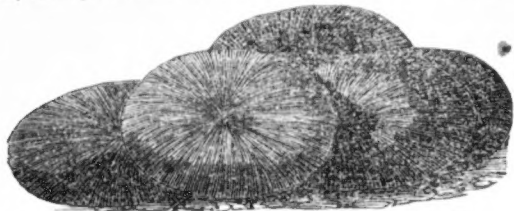


CROSS OF THE CHURCH OF ST WLADIMIR FROM THE CRIMEA.



THE UPAS TREE.

for long attached a sort of fabulous interest—killing, it was said, man, bird, and beast, that came within the circle of its influence—is of the same tribe of plants as that from which the *Strychnos Nux Vomica* is obtained. The fruit is about the size of a St. Michael's orange, with a bitter, astringent pulp, and containing from three to five seeds. The pulp may be eaten; the seeds, which produce one of the strongest poisons, are of a brownish gray

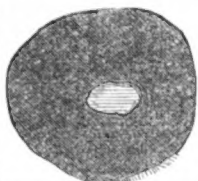


SEED OF THE STRYCHNOS NUX VOMICA.—ACTUAL SIZE.

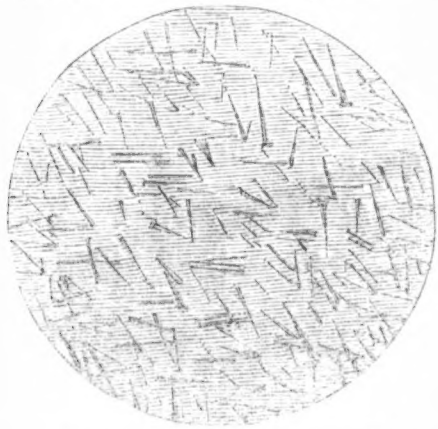
colour. Each side is flattish, or very slightly concave on the umbilicus represented. The following engraving is a section of the seed of the natural size. Mr. Pepper, however, shows this very highly magnified by the Oxy-hydrogen Microscope.

Owing to the hard, cartilaginous nature of the seeds, they are extremely difficult to reduce to powder. When reduced, a very small quantity of this powder is sufficient to destroy life. The poison Strychnine is obtained from the seeds by the following process:—

The seed is rasped down as small as possible; it is then exposed to the action of nitric ether. The residue, thus deprived of its fatty matter, is digested in alcohol so long as that re-agent is capable of dissolving anything. The alcoholic solution is evaporated to dryness, and what remains is dissolved in water. Caustic potash being dropped into the solution, a white crystalline precipitate falls, which is *Strychnine*. Mr. Pepper shows us some of these crystals by the help of the microscope; they are small, four-sided prisms, terminated by four-sided low pyramids.



SECTION OF THE STRYCHNOS NUX VOMICA.



ALKALOID (STRYCHNINE), MICROSCOPIC VIEW.

The poison thus prepared has a white colour; its taste is intolerably bitter, leaving a metallic impression in the mouth; it is destitute of smell, and is not affected by exposure to the air; it is neither fusible nor volatile, except at temperatures at which it undergoes decomposition; it is very slightly soluble in cold water.

Some authorities say that "*Strychnos*" is an ancient name which occurs in Pliny and Dioscorides, and that it is derived from a Greek word which signifies "I overthrow," some derive the name from the Greek "I torment." Both terms are descriptive of the effects of this cruel poison, which, while inflicting in its operation the most intense pain, does not exhaust the sensibility; indeed, during the fits, the sensibility is heightened, and the faculties rendered more acute. So great is the spasmodic action caused when this poison is administered, that a cat under its influence has been known to bite through a strong bar of metal.

A few years ago, attention was directed to the dangerous properties of Strychnine, in consequence of it having been stated that the "Bitter Ale" or "Indian Ale" depended on this substance for its flavour. Mr. Pepper, however, assures us that there is no reason for apprehension on this point, for the poison in the drug market is worth £1 an ounce, a price which effectually prevents it from being made a substitute for hops.

To the natives of Guiana, Strychnine is well known, and much of their means of subsistence depends upon their possession of this poison, in which they dip their arrows for the chase; the poison thus applied to weapons has been known to retain its fatal effects for upwards of 20 years; and it is reported that animals which die from the infusion of this poison into the system are not unfitted for human food.

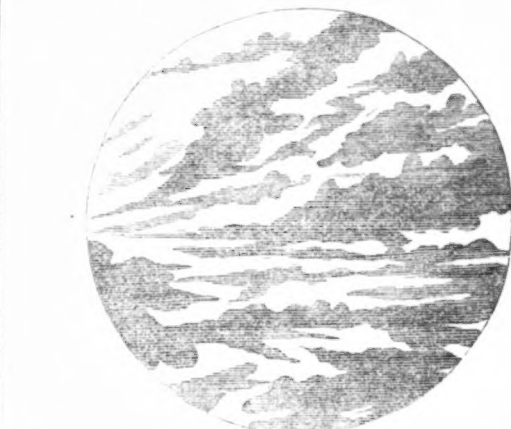
In the course of his lecture, Mr. Pepper observed, very justly, that, considering the great number of poisoning cases which have lately come before the public, some enactment should be made for the suppression of the sale of poisons to all except professional persons or to those who use them for manufacturing purposes. He next proceeded to describe the means of testing the presence of Strychnine.



STRYCHNINE. TEST.

Strychnine belongs to the alkaloid class of substances; which is easily proved by adding its alcoholic solution to an infusion of litmus turned red by a little acetic acid. The blue colour is instantly restored by the alkaline action of the Strychnine.

Two tests are shown by means of the Oxy-hydrogen Microscope, as characteristic of the presence of Strychnine, even when in minute quantities. A small portion of its solution is placed on a glass plate, and near it some crystals of the bicromate of potash; on rubbing the two together, by means of a glass rod, a blueish colour is obtained, which speedily turns red. A better test is found by substituting ferrocyanide of potash for the bicromate: this affords a similar colour, but is not so fleeting; it also eventually turns to red. The foregoing result shows the great value of the Oxy-hydrogen Microscope in this department of science. Beyond the reform which



MICROSCOPIC APPEARANCE OF THE STRYCHNINE, AFTER THE APPLICATION OF THE TEST.

is needed in the sale of medicines, it is also desirable that the Pharmacopoeias of England and Scotland should be made similar; for so different are certain of the preparations, that some are not safe; for instance, the Elixir of Paregoric, as sold in Scotland, contains much more opium than that sold in England, and the same quantity of the Scotch as of the English, would, if administered to an infant, be attended with ill effects.

WEEKLY OBITUARY.

DAVY, SIR W. G.—On the 25th ult., at Tracy Park, Gloucestershire, died, aged 76, General Sir William Gabriel Davy, K.C.H. and C.B., Colonel of the 60th Foot. He was the eldest son of the late Major Davy, East India Company's Service, who held the post of Persian Secretary, under the celebrated Warren Hastings, in India. The deceased General, who was born in 1779, married, first, in 1814, the eldest daughter of Thomas Arthington, Esq., of Arthington, county of York, and, second, in 1840, the eldest daughter of Richard Fontaine Wilson, Esq., of the same county. He entered the service in 1797, and served through nearly the whole of the Peninsular War; he commanded a battalion of the 60th Foot at Vimiera, Roleia, and Talavera, and was made a C.B. at the close of the war for his distinguished services. He was also rewarded with a medal and clasp, and a "good service pension." In 1830 he was made Major-General, Lieutenant-General in 1841, and became full General in 1854.

EUSTACE, REV. C.—On the 5th inst., died, at an advanced age, the Rev. Charles Eustace, heir and representative of the late Viscount Balmaglass, and brother of General Sir John R. Eustace, and of the late General Sir William Cornwallis Eustace, who died last year. He was eldest son of the late Lieutenant-General Charles Eustace, who served with distinction in the Irish Rebellion of '98, and married Cassandra, daughter of the late John Stannard, Esq., of Balladoyle, county of Cork, by whom he leaves four daughters and a son, Charles Stannard Eustace, captain R.N., now heir and representative of the Balmaglass title. A claim to this title was preferred by the subject of this notice in 1839, with a petition to the Crown that his right might be acknowledged. The petition was referred by her Majesty to the legal authorities in Ireland, who reported that "the petitioner had shown sufficient evidence of his right to the dignity of Viscount Balmaglass, in case the attainder of James, third Viscount, temp. Elizabeth, were reversed." Mr. Eustace, however, unfortunately never possessed sufficient political interest to move her Majesty's Government to recommend the reversal of the attainder title, and he consequently learned by experience that it is one thing to establish, and another to enforce, a legal claim.

HENRY, LADY E.—On the 9th inst., at Cumberland Terrace, Regent's Park, died, aged 78, the Lady Emily Elizabeth Henry, daughter of the second Duke of Leinster (by his Duchess, daughter of Lord St. George), and sister of the present Duke. She was born in 1778, and married, in 1801, John Joseph Henry, Esq., of Straffan, county of Kildare, by whom she has left issue a numerous family. One son is Captain H. R. Henry, who has assumed the name of Yelverton, and is married to the present Marchioness of Hastings.

DE VEE, LADY.—On the 11th inst., at Curragh Chase, Adare, county of Limerick, died the Dowager Lady De Vere. The deceased Lady, who was only daughter of Stephen Edward Rice, Esq., of Mount Trenchard, county of Limerick, and sister to Lord Montagu, married in 1807 Sir Aubrey De Vere of Curragh, second Baronet, by whom she had issue three daughters and five sons, the eldest of whom is the present holder of the baronetcy, the second, Stephen, is M.P. for the county of Limerick, and the third, Aubrey De Vere, is well known in the literary world as the author of the "Waldenses," and other poems. The husband of the deceased Lady assumed, by Royal license, the name of De Vere, in lieu of that of Hunt, in order to mark his descent from a daughter of a son of John, fifteenth Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, whose title, created in 1155, became extinct in 1702.

FARNHAM, COUNTESS OF.—On the 10th inst., at Leamington, aged 90, died Grace, Countess of Farnham. Her Ladyship was the only daughter of Thomas Cuffe, Esq., of the Grange, county of Kilkenny, and married in 1784 John James, second and last Earl of Farnham, who died without issue in 1823, when the earldom became extinct; the barony of Farnham passing at the same time to John Maxwell Barry, Esq., as a descendant and eldest representative of Henry, third son of the first Lord, who was well known as Col. Barry, the great supporter of Orange Lodges in the county of Cavan, which he represented in Parliament for many years. He was, after his accession to the Barony of Farnham, chosen a representative peer for Ireland, and died in 1838.

ONCLEY, HON. M. H.—On the 13th inst., at Harrogate, aged 48, died the Hon. Montague Henry Oncley. The deceased gentleman, third son of the late Lord Oncley, by Frances, daughter of the late Sir John Burgoyne, Bart., next brother and heir presumptive of the present peer, was born in 1808, and was formerly captain in the Coldstream Guards. Like his other brothers he was unmarried; and his next brother, George, born in 1809, and late captain in the Coldstream Guards, now becomes heir presumptive to the title, and to the beautiful estates at Old Warden, near Biggleswade.

GRAY, D. ESQ.—On the 10th inst., at Aberdeen, N.B. aged 45, died David Gray, Esq., Professor of Natural Philosophy in Marischal College and University. He was a native of Kirkcaldy, county of Fife, and was much distinguished for the early promise which he gave of eminence in his line of scientific pursuits. He had held his appointment in Marischal College about eleven years.

M'KAFFERTY, DEAN.—On the 3rd inst., at Priest Town, near Carn, in his 95th year, died the Rev. William M'Kafferty, parish priest of Donagh, and Roman Catholic dean of Derry. He was the oldest member of the Catholic priesthood in Ireland. Having been educated at Claudi, he was ordained a priest in 1792, and entered Maynooth College in 1795, the year of its first opening. He was, in the words of a contemporary, "a hard-working mountain missionary, and his life was spent in the hovels of the poor." His remains were carried to the grave on the 5th, attended by the Roman Catholic Bishop, nearly all the clergy of the Enniskillen district, and by a large concourse of persons of all creeds, among whom he had lived and died respected.

BAGOT, LORD W.—On the 12th inst., at Blithfield, Staffordshire, aged 82, died William, second Lord Bagot, brother of the late Bishop (Bagot) of Bath and Wells, and of the late Right Hon. Sir Charles Bagot, G.C.B., ambassador at Paris, St. Petersburg, and to the United States. The deceased Peer, who was educated at Westminster and Christ Church, Oxford, and was a fellow of several learned societies, succeeded to his title at the age of 25, in 1798, and married, firstly, a daughter of the first Lord Southampton; and, secondly, the eldest daughter of the late Earl of Dartmouth. He is succeeded in his title by his son William, who was born in 1811, and is married to a sister of Viscount Clifden. The present Peer, like his father, is a zealous supporter of the Tory party, and represented Derbyshire in the Conservative interest from 1835 to 1852.

HOUSTON, ROBERT.—On the 6th ult., at Calcutta, died Robert Houston, Esq., of the Bengal Civil Service, son of Sir Robert Houston, K.C.B., of Clerkington, N.B. (by a daughter of Captain Follett, R.N., uncle of the late Sir W. W. Follett, M.P., and Attorney-General), who served in India under Lord Lake, and was afterwards for ten years governor of the Royal Military College, at Addiscombe, near Croydon.

BURNETT, MISS M.—On the 9th inst., at Banchoy, N.B., died Miss Mary Burnett, sister of Sir Alexander Burnett. She was the elder daughter of the late Sir Robert Burnett, Bart., of Legs, county of Aberdeen (who served as an officer in the Royal Scots Fusiliers, through the first American War, and was taken prisoner at Saratoga), by Margaret Dalrymple, daughter of General Elphinstone, of Logie-Elphinstone, N.B.

PRINCE DE TORRELLA.—The Prince of Torella lately died at Naples, in a very sudden and melancholy manner. He had passed the evening at the house of one of his friends, and on his return home was found dead in his carriage. He had died of an apoplectic seizure. The Prince was the head and representative of one of the branches of the ancient house of Caracciolo, which has been established so many centuries in the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and which has produced a succession of persons illustrious as warriors, cardinals, and popes.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. VII.
WARMING AND VENTILATING THE HOUSE.

To explain how the House is warmed and ventilated, would be quite impossible. Suffice it to say that under the able superintendence of Mr. Goldworthy Gurney, it is now efficiently done. The apparatus is down below in the vaulted chambers, and passages on the basement stories. It will give some idea of the cost and extent of the apparatus to mention that there are fifteen steam boilers always at work, and that the iron pipes to convey the hot and cold air throughout the entire building are many miles in length. There is also in these "under regions" a large steam engine, formerly used by Dr. Read to turn enormous fans, but now only employed occasionally for pumping. There are also enormous fires constantly burning to draw off the foul air. A tug down to these chambers would amply repay the curious in such matters. But let no man presume to go without a conductor, as he might lose his way, and not easily find it again. The cost of all these works, for warming our legislators in winter, and keeping them cool in summer, must have been a frightful sum, and the annual expenditure forms no mean item in the public accounts.

"OLD CHARLEY" IN THE HOUSE.

On Thursday, the 14th, the approaches to the House and the galleries were unusually crowded. The cause of this was the expected fight between the pet Member for Southwark, "Old Charley," and Sir James Graham. The Southwarkers were in the lobby in great numbers; and great was the indignation there that Sir Charles could not get them all into the House. One little man was particularly irate. He seems to have been chairman of some district committee at the late election; and that he should be kept out was to him astonishing—"Why could he not go under the gallery with those other gentlemen?" The "other gentlemen" were several Lords of the Admiralty—Sir Edmund Lyons, Captain Peel, and Lord Clarence Paget, together with sundry peers, private secretaries, and the like. However, notwithstanding his pertinacity, he did not get in; and after waiting until past twelve o'clock, he went away full of wrath and indignation "at such conduct."

About six o'clock the Gallant Admiral hove in sight, entered into the House, sat himself down upon the cross bench to the right of the Speaker, and unloaded himself of his freight of papers. But when the time seemed to be approaching for action, he advanced into position directly opposite the Treasury Bench, borrowing a seat for the occasion by the side of Mr. Disraeli; and placed his formidable bundle of documents on the table of the House; and there he sat for several hours, anxiously watching the speakers, and longing for the time when, at the call of the Speaker, he should be allowed to open fire. He was, however, entirely disappointed. Sir Fitzroy Kelly's debate on the consolidation of the statutes lasted until nine o'clock, and then a simple-looking notice of Sir John Shelley's for some returns relative to the Irish judges, burst out into a flame of debate, which was not subdued until the House divided, at a quarter past twelve, when of course the worthy old Admiral was obliged to pack up his papers, and postpone his motion till a more convenient season. We don't believe, ourselves, that when the fight shall come off, it will end in victory to Sir Charles. Place the late First Lord in a frigate, "Charley" in another, and let them fight it out on the open sea, and we know who would soonest lower his flag. But the House of Commons is not a quarter-deck, nor are paper documents and logic so easily managed by an "old admiral" as great guns. Sir Charles's case may probably be exceedingly good; but Sir James is cutting at logic fence, and Sir Charles is not. It is too late for him to step off the quarter-deck into such an arena as this. Look at that jumble of papers, all tied up higgledy-piggledy anyhow, that lies before Sir Charles, and then turn your eyes to the formidable green leather box lying at the feet of Sir James—not to mention the auxiliary secretaries and clerks "under the galleries." Last week the old Admiral had a skirmish with Sir Charles Wood, but he did not shine in it. He seemed more than once quite forgetful of the place where he was, and the presence of the Speaker; and when, in answer to an assertion of the First Lord, that the promotions in the navy were made quite irrespective of political influence, the old Admiral exclaimed, "Good go-a-mighty! I'm glad to hear it," everybody must have felt that he was in a wrong position. It was in this debate that he excited the House to roars of laughter by saying that sailors always were very particular in their dress. And well might the House laugh; for Sir Charles's own dress was of the most singular character—short trousers, not reaching down to his low shoes, a buff waistcoat protruding from above a green plaid shooting-jacket, and, to crown all, a shirt-front with ballet girls printed thereon. Sir Charles, if he had been wise, would have placed his papers in the hands of some practised speaker; for certainly a sailor that pleads his own cause in such a place has a fool for his client. He can marshal a fleet—no man better—but marshaling arguments is quite another matter.

THE SHERIFFS AT THE HOUSE.

On Friday, 15th, the Sheriffs of the City of London appeared at "the Bar" to present a petition. It is well known that members only can generally present petitions, but it is not so well known that the Corporation of London has the privilege of presenting them through its Sheriffs; and so, on Friday, at half-past four, the Sheriffs appeared at the door clothed in their scarlet robes. The Sergeant was informed of their presence, and immediately proceeded to the table to fetch the mace, and then went to the door to receive these high City functionaries. The door-keeper walked into the House and called out in a loud voice, "The Sheriffs of the City of London;" and then the Sergeant having dressed them in a line with himself marched with them, all three bowing as they went to the bar, which was drawn across the passage for the occasion; here the Sheriffs delivered their petition to the clerk, and then the Sergeant and they retired backwards, bowing as before. After this important ceremony, another more important took place, the Sheriffs and a select party of friends dined together in the dining-room of the House.

During the evening Mr. Buchanan, the American Minister, and the American Minister at Brussels, were in the gallery.

THE FIRST PARTY FIGHT.

The business of the House has gone on drowsily enough. The only exciting episode was the debate, followed by a division, on Sir John Shelley's motion for certain returns relative to the Irish judges. This was the first party skirmish of the Session. The real question was, whether an old man of 81, and blind, is fit to be a judge. Sir John Shelley, backed by the Government, said he is not. Mr. Napier and his party said he is; and on this question they joined issue. It seems that a division was not expected; but as the number of members on the Opposition benches was large, and the members in the Ministerial side but few—the chance of beating the Government was too tempting to be thrown away. The Ministerial whips, however, were not caught napping. The telegraph was set to work. Cabs were despatched in all directions, and in a very short time the reserve, in its well-known uniform of tailed coats and white waistcoats, appeared, and turned the fortune of the day; and once more "justice to Ireland" (on this occasion demanding that a blind octogenarian should be continued on the bench) was refused. It was during the debate that Sir John Shelley was called to order for reading from a newspaper. But Mr. Speaker interfered, and said that the rule of the House used to be that no member could read from a newspaper; but some time back the house had determined that newspapers read to prove facts, were to be considered as documents, and might be read.

BON-MOT.—Lord D.: "Well, Mr. Alderman, you should get into Parliament." Alderman: "I intend, my lord, to try for the City." Lord D.: "But there is no vacancy. Rothschild still retains his seat." Alderman: "I understand there is a *vacancy* (the worthy alderman is famous for dropping his H's) in that business, my lord." Lord D.: "Oh, if there is an *itch*, you cannot too soon come to the *scratch*."

LORD PALMERSTON stated in the House the other night that a Noble Lord being desirous of an audience of the Duke of Wellington, the Duke appointed seven o'clock in the morning for the interview. A friend of the Noble Lord asked him, "How on earth will you manage to be with the Duke at seven o'clock?" "Oh!" replied the Noble Lord, "nothing can be easier; I shall do it the last thing before going to bed."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CEMETERY DISPUTE.

Lord BATHURST presented a petition complaining of delay in opening a cemetery in Carlisle.

The Bishop of EXETER entered into an explanation of the alleged rights of bishops under the recent statutes relating to cemeteries.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Earl GRANVILLE moved the second reading of a bill establishing a Vice-President of the Committee of Council of Education, and stated that he would, in fact, be the Minister of Public Instruction. A discussion followed, in which the provisions of the measure were generally approved.

The House of Commons Officers Bill and the Metropolitan Police Bill were read a second time. The House then adjourned at a quarter past seven.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A long list of petitions against the opening of public institutions on Sundays were again presented.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. Black took the oaths and his seat for Edinburgh.

DECIMAL COINAGE.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in answer to Mr. Warner, said a commission had been issued to inquire into the subject of decimal coinage.

THE CRIMEAN REPORT.

Mr. PEEL, in reply to Mr. Palk, said he should lay on the table the answers of Lord Lucan and Cardigan as to the allegations against them in the Crimean Report.

Mr. PALK then gave notice of his intention to call the attention of the House to the allegations against the officers named in that report.

Mr. LAYARD asked the Government to give him an early day to bring on his motion on that subject.

Lord PALMERSTON said it was too early in the session to ask such favours, and the Hon. Member had better "try his luck" in the ordinary way.

FIRE INSURANCE DUTIES.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, in reply to Mr. Palk, that it was not intended to repeal the duties on Fire Insurance.

REWARDS OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS AT THE REDAN.

Mr. PEEL, in reply to Mr. Layard, said that reports had been sent of the names of officers in different divisions who distinguished themselves at the Redan, to General Simpson, and had not been added to his general report. These reports had been received at the War Office, and he would inquire for them.

OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

On the motion of going into Committee of Supply, Mr. ROEBUCK brought on the subject of our relations with America. He thought that the statement on that subject which had been made public was incorrect, and he thought he had the means of correcting that statement. He believed that the statement that all that could have been done to conciliate America had been done, was not true. The state of the case was, that Mr. Crampton, the Governor-General of Canada, and the Governor of Nova Scotia, were directed to assist enlistment in America. It was said that those instructions were withdrawn, and an apology made to the United States. But more had been done than was stated; for Mr. Crampton had a plan with the Governor of Nova Scotia to evade the law of the United States; that is, he tried to induce persons to leave the States and enlist in Nova Scotia, which was as much against the law of the United States as enlisting in the States themselves. Mr. Roebuck then read extracts from the trial of one Hertz in Pennsylvania, who was employed to induce people to leave the States and enlist in Nova Scotia. He urged that Mr. Crampton had broken through the laws of neutrality, and the United States was justified in demanding his recall if he had exceeded his instructions; if he had not, the apology made by our Government was not sufficient, and was disingenuous. He asked to be told distinctly what the instructions given to Mr. Crampton were, beyond the mere tampering of telling him not to break the law.

Mr. HADFIELD seconded the motion.

Lord PALMERSTON said the same reason which induced the American Government to withhold the correspondence on this subject from Congress, had induced our Government to withhold it from Parliament. He then stated that the correspondence was still in so imperfect a condition as to preclude its being placed before the House. He would not, therefore, enter into details; all he would say was that the instruction of the Government was that nothing should be done to violate the laws of the United States. He would not yet argue the point put by Mr. Roebuck, with regard to enticing men from America; but he would say that efforts were made, and a conspiracy got up, to fasten on England a violation of the law of the United States. He utterly denied that the apology made was insincere or disingenuous; it was not intended after it was given that enlistment should be continued, and if it had been continued, it was against the order of the Government. The apology was not merely for breaking the law of the United States, but for anything which could be construed into such an attempt, and was so considered by the American Minister here. In fact, after the question was supposed to have been settled, it was re-opened by the American Government. He deprecated the dealing with this question while it was still pending.

Mr. DISRAELI expressed his opinion that no discussion on the relations between this country and foreign countries should take place without full information, and he should not support Mr. Roebuck; but he denied the doctrine of Lord Palmerston, that no member of that House had a right to call attention to the conduct of the Government in such transactions. He wished that all reserve should be observed on these occasions, but he was not surprised that something should have come of the attempt of the Noble Lord, in an ex parte statement the other evening, to bind the House to certain opinions on this question. The Noble Lord had said there was a conspiracy on the part of the American Government to entrap England into violating the laws of the United States.

Lord PALMERSTON said it was not to the American Government, but to certain persons unconnected with that Government, that he had alluded to.

Mr. DISRAELI, after a few further remarks, expressed his hope of the continuance of amicable relations with America, and urged Mr. Roebuck to withdraw his motion.

Mr. ROEBUCK then withdrew his motion.

Mr. M. GIBSON asked when the formal offer of arbitration on the Central American question was made.

Lord PALMERSTON said he did not remember; but the papers, when laid upon the table, should give all the requisite information.

The Revenue Department Estimates were passed through Committee of Supply.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the civil service superannuation.

Several other bills were introduced, and the House adjourned at twenty minutes to twelve.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE WENSLEYDALE PEERAGE.

The Lords met as a Committee of Privileges at two o'clock, and heard evidence concerning the precedents which had been found in the ancient rolls of Parliament having reference to the question of life peerages. After some discussion, the committee adjourned until Friday evening, when Lord Lyndhurst intimated his intention of bringing forward a motion challenging a direct issue respecting the illegality of the patent conferring a barony for life on Lord Wensleydale.

The House then adjourned for an hour.

On resuming at five o'clock, the bill appointing a Minister of Public Instruction, under the title of Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, was passed through committee after a brief conversation.

The House of Commons Officers Bill, and the Metropolitan Police Bill, also respectively went through committee.

Their Lordships finally adjourned at ten minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A fresh batch of petitions against the opening of the Crystal Palace and other places on Sundays, was presented. Petitions were also presented from several places for a repeal of the act passed last session extending the hours during which public-houses are opened on Sundays, and a few for the closing of such houses entirely on those days.

Mr. PEEL, in answer to Mr. Layard, explained the circumstances connected with the brevet rank, published in the "Gazette" of the 2nd of November, particularly as regarded the names of those officers who had distinguished themselves in the attack on the Redan. General Simpson had been requested by Lord Hardinge to send distinct lists, but instead of doing this, he had sent lists supplied by commanding officers, leaving it to Lord Hardinge to make the selection. That selection had been made, and brevet rank conferred.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

Mr. LOWE, in answer to Mr. Lushington, stated that a bill was in preparation for carrying into effect the resolutions of the committee of the House of Lords for the collection of agricultural statistics.

STAFF OF THE ARMY.

Mr. PEEL, in answer to Mr. Ewart, mentioned that means were under consideration for improving the efficiency of the army staff.

On the motion that this bill should be read a second time,

Mr. J. FITZGERALD urged numerous objections, and moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months. He regarded the proposal to transfer the business of the Encumbered Estates Court, with its *business*, to the

Court of Chancery, as impracticable, and calculated to bring the Court, ere long, into contempt. It was a mistake to say that the measure was economical, for as many new offices were created, and superannuation allowances provided for, as would counterbalance the saving to arise from the abolition of other offices.

Mr. POLLARD-URQUHART seconded the amendment.

Mr. DEASY supported the bill, believing that it would facilitate the transfer of land.

Mr. MCCANN hoped that the House would "let well enough alone" a little longer. The present Encumbered Estates Court had worked well for Ireland, and on slight grounds it ought not to be tampered with. A better course would be to extend the powers of the Court rather than transfer jurisdiction to the Court of Chancery.

Mr. WHITESIDE conscientiously believed that the bill could not be carried into execution. It was unworkable. The new tribunal was altogether incompetent to do the work proposed to be assigned to it. The arrears amounted to 1,600 unsold estates, representing a value of 16 or 17 millions of money; and three millions more remained to be distributed. The bill should be stopped now, for it was literally impossible that it could be improved in any subsequent stage. Mr. Whiteside proceeded to assert that the bill was the greatest job that had been laid on the table for a quarter of a century.

After several gentlemen had spoken in favour of the second reading of the bill, Mr. CAIRNS, one of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the working of the Encumbered Estates Court, defended the report from Mr. Whiteside's strictures. He would vote for the second reading of the Bill, inasmuch as it adopted the recommendation of the Commissioners, to perpetuate and extend the advantages of the Encumbered Estates Court. He regarded the provision in the Bill which placed the appointment of the chief clerk to the Judges in the hands of the Lord-Lieutenant, instead of vesting it in the Judges, as most objectionable. He thought good would arise from referring this Bill, and the other Bills on the same subject, to a select committee.

Sir ERSKINE PERRY had entered the House with a prejudice against the Bill, but the speech of Mr. Cairns had satisfied him that the measure was sound in principle.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL for IRELAND, by reference to the actual state of the Court of Chancery, showed that the Court was quite capable, with an additional staff, to do the extra work intended to be transferred to it. With regard to the exercise of patronage, he thought the provision of the Bill, placing it in the hands of a responsible executive, was better than vesting it in the hands of irresponsible judges. Still, he did not care how it went, provided the arrangement was such as to secure the best appointments. It was not correct to speak of 1,600 unsold estates as being in "arrear." The business spoken of was business of recent date, and much of the delay complained of was owing to the conduct of the parties themselves. He had no objection to submit the Bill to the scrutiny of a select committee, but he could not consent to send to the same committee Mr. Whiteside's five bills, as in many important respects they differed essentially from the Bill under consideration.

Mr. NAPIER could not support the second reading, seeing that the Solicitor-General for Ireland had refused to send Mr. Whiteside's Bills to the same select committee.

Mr. DISRAELI thought the course taken by the Solicitor-General for Ireland was ungracious, and hoped he would not persist in it.

The amendment was withdrawn, and the bill referred to a select committee.

DRAINAGE AND OTHER BILLS.

The Drainage Advances Act Amendment Bill, the Turnpike Trusts Arrangements Bill, and the Commons Enclosure Bill, were read a second time. The Charitable Uses Bill went through committee.

On the motion of Sir G. GREY, a committee was appointed to inquire into the present constitution of the Ecclesiastical Commission in England, into the working of the acts by which its existence had been prolonged, and into the expediency of consolidating with it the Church Building Commission.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past twelve o'clock.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Petitions were presented against the opening of the Crystal Palace, &c., on Sundays.

THE WENSLEYDALE PEERAGE.

Earl GREY gave notice that on Friday, in the Committee of Privileges upon the Wensleydale Peerage, he should move, as an amendment to the resolution announced by Lord Lyndhurst, that, in consideration of the strong opinions entertained among professional authorities respecting the legality of the act, the patent granted to Baron Parke should be recognised, and his Lordship admitted to a place among the Peers, but that measures should be taken to prevent the proceeding from being drawn into a precedent.

Some routine business was transacted, and their Lordships adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

An unusually long list of petitions was presented against, and a shorter one, in favour of, the opening of the British Museum, &c., on Sundays.

THE CRIMEAN REPORTS.

Mr. PEEL, in answer to Lord William Graham, mentioned that no unnecessary delay had taken place in communicating Sir John McNeill's report to the Horse Guards.

Colonel NORTH asked whether the published report contained everything which was supplied by the Commissioners, and if it did not, whether the Government intended to publish what was withheld?

Mr. PEEL remarked that there was no intention to present the report in any other shape than that in which it had appeared.

Colonel NORTH was not satisfied with that answer, and would repeat his question.

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN MASTERS AND WORKMEN.

Mr. MACKINTOSH renewed his motion of last year for a select committee "to consider the inconvenience now felt in this country from the want of equitable tribunals, by whose means any difference between masters and operatives might be satisfactorily adjusted; and also to ascertain whether the Conseils des Prud'hommes in France have answered the purpose for which they were established."

Mr. Mackintosh had taken pains to ascertain the views of intelligent operatives on this point, and the invariable answer was that an amendment of the present law was imperatively necessary. It was not prudent to delay the consideration of a question in which large bodies of men felt so deep an interest, lest exasperation should lead to serious conflicts between the employer and the employed.

Sir GEORGE GREY did not think it expedient last session that the committee should inquire into the French law, but as the inquiry now proposed did not involve that objection, he would agree to it. The motion was agreed to.

REVISION OF THE STATUTES.

Mr. LOCKE KING moved—"That there be prepared, under the direction of the Clerk of the Parliaments, an edition of the statutes at large for the use of this House, including all public general statutes and parts of statutes in force, and omitting all such statutes and parts of statutes as are expired or have been expressly repealed; and that, in the place of the statutes or parts of statutes repealed, there be inserted the titles of the statutes repealed, the respective numbers and abstracts of the clauses repealed, with a reference in the margin to the statutes by which they are repealed."

Mr. EWART seconded the motion.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL expressed a hope that Mr. Locke King would rest satisfied with the address he had delivered, and not press his motion to a division. The work he wished to have done was of an important and gigantic character, but the officer he proposed to do it was not an officer of the House of Commons, but of the House of Lords, and the Commons could not exercise control over an officer of another House. But although this difficulty did not exist, it was impossible that the Clerk of Parliaments could execute the herculean task. The best and only way of accomplishing the object was to leave the work to be done by the same persons who were to accomplish the consolidation of the statutes.

Sir FITZROY KELLY and others deemed the motion impracticable and unnecessary, and advised Mr. King to withdraw it.

Mr. WATSON maintained that the course pointed out in the motion was the first step towards consolidation.

Mr. ROBERT PHILLIMORE moved as an amendment that the edition be published for general use.

Mr. LOCKE KING agreed to leave out the words "Clerk of the Parliaments."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL did not think the House should assent to a motion like the present, which did not specify the means by which the work was to be done.

The amended motion having become the main question, a division was taken, and it was negatived by 164 to 63.

MINISTERS' MONEY (IRELAND).

Mr. FAGAN moved that the House should itself into committee, with the view of repealing an act introduced by Sir J. Young, and passed in 1854, to commute the tax called ministers' money in eight corporate towns in Ireland. The tax itself, as Mr. Fagan maintained, was considered to be an unjust and indefensible impost, but the change effected by the statute in question, which was termed a compromise, was still more objectionable.

Mr. HORSMAN confessed that the act alluded to had worked unsatisfactorily, and consented to the introduction of the bill.

Mr. NAPIER inveighed against the conduct of the Government in allowing vexatious questions to be kept open by bills brought forward by private members, without attempting themselves to arrive at any definite solution of the subject.

Mr. MEagher and Lord Naas having spoken, Lord PALMERSTON defended the course adopted by the Government, contending that it was an act of proper courtesy to the supporters of the bill to allow it to be introduced and discussed.

Captain JONES opposed the motion.

Lord J. RUSSELL suggested that the terms of the resolution should be changed,

inasmuch as they seemed to pledge the House to a definite conclusion, and that leave should simply be asked to bring in a bill on the subject of ministers' money.

Mr. M'GUIRE declared that the act passed by Sir J. Young was universally unpopular in Ireland.

Mr. SULLIVAN advocated the total repeal of the tax in question.

Mr. BLACK, in justice to the city he represented (Edinburgh), could not avoid remarking, that if the tax in question applied to eight cities in Ireland, there was in Scotland a similar tax which applied to two cities—the annuity tax. That impost had been productive of irritation and strife in Edinburgh as long as he recollected. He trusted that if means were taken to repeal ministers' money in Ireland, means would also be taken to repeal the annuity tax in Scotland; for in this matter, what was good for Ireland would be equally good for Scotland.

The motion being altered according to the suggestion of Lord J. Russell, was agreed to, and leave given to bring in the Bill.

SCOTCH REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Mr. DUNLOP obtained leave to bring in a bill to make further provision for rendering reformatory and industrial schools in Scotland more available for the benefit of vagrant children.

The Civil Service Superannuation Bill was read a second time, and referred to a select committee. The House adjourned at a quarter to nine.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker took the chair at 12 o'clock, when a number of petitions were presented against the opening of the Crystal Palace on Sundays, and other contemplated measures.

The Episcopal and Capitular Estates Bill was read a second time, on the motion of the Marquis of Blandford, in order to be referred to the committee on the Ecclesiastical Commission.

Mr. HEADLAM having moved the second reading of the Medical Profession Bill.

Mr. SPOONER remonstrated against proceeding so rapidly with a measure which in his opinion contained many questionable provisions.

Lord R. GROSVENOR objected to the measure on the ground that it conferred upon a medical council the power of granting registration and authorising persons to act as qualified practitioners.

Sir G. GREY rejoiced to find that some prospect existed of successful legislation on a subject that had long required it. He admitted, however, that several of the details were susceptible of improvement.

Mr. Henley and Mr. Napier having spoken, and after a brief reply from Mr. Headlam, the bill was read a second time.

The Drainage Acts Amendment Bill went through committee.

The House adjourned at ten minutes past one o'clock.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Petitions against the opening of the Crystal Palace and British Museum were presented.

The Leases and Sales of Settled Estates Bill was passed through committee.

The Trial of Offences Bill was reported, as amended by the committee, and ordered to stand for third reading on Monday.

THE CRIMEAN REPORT.

Lord PANMURE stated, that a board of general officers would be nominated to examine the report lately presented by the Crimean Inquiry Commissioners, in so far as it related to matters in which the conduct of commanding officers appeared liable to censure. Some conversation ensued, and the subject dropped.

THE RELATION OF THE WAR DEPARTMENTS.

The Earl of DERBY, pursuant to notice, urged a query upon the Government touching the respective duties which were now exercised by the Secretary of State for War and the Commander-in-Chief, and moved for the production of any document that might be in existence wherein the nature and limits of such respective duties were defined.

Lord PANMURE explained the different functions which appertained under the existing organisation severally to the War Minister and the Commander-in-Chief. In practice he admitted it was impossible to define very precisely the line of demarcation between their respective duties and responsibilities.—Their Lordships then adjourned at a quarter past seven.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A long list of petitions occupying nearly three columns of the "Times," were presented against the opening of the Crystal Palace, &c., on Sundays; while a very few petitions were presented in favour of that measure.

THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SUNDAY.

Mr. ROEBUCK asked Sir G. Grey if he had heard that on Monday last a person was brought before the magistrates at Oldham, charged with shaving a man on the previous Sunday (a laugh), and was by those learned pundits fined 5s.

Sir G. GREY said he had not; if he had known that the question would have been asked, he should have been prepared to answer it.

SUNDAY RECREATIONS.

Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY made his motion—"That, in the opinion of this House, it would promote the moral and intellectual improvement of the working classes of this metropolis, if the collections of national history and of art in the British Museum and the National Gallery were open to the public inspection after morning service on Sundays."

Mr. J. SHELLEY, in seconding the motion, acknowledged that the proposition was unpopular both in the House and the country, but as a matter of principle he advocated the admission of the public to museums and galleries of art during the afternoon of the Sunday. In this manner he believed the real intention for which the Sabbath was appointed would be better fulfilled than under the present prohibitive system.

Mr. A. PELLATT moved as an amendment that, without interfering with the sanctity of the Sabbath, greater facilities should be afforded during the week, and particularly on Saturdays, for the public admission to galleries of arts, museums, and other places of intellectual recreation. Mr. BAXTER seconded the amendment.

Mr. MURDOCH supported the original resolution. It was impossible, as he maintained, for the working classes in the metropolis to spend Sunday worse, and under more disadvantageous conditions, than they did at present; and he anticipated, from the opening of museums and analogous establishments, some prospect that they might be enabled to spend the day better.

Mr. CROLEY was persuaded, that if the sanctity of the day were interfered with in the manner proposed, it would ultimately become a day of work, as in France.

Lord STANLEY, after suggesting that large deductions should be made from the weight otherwise due to the vast number of petitions presented to the House against the object of the motion—on the ground that they were the result of an organised movement, conducted by an influential body—observed that the question was not, as had been alleged, whether the resolution would offend conscientious feelings, but whether the offence was reasonable. There was a broad distinction between permissive and compulsory legislation; but those who resisted the Sunday opening, did not ask not to be compelled to go to places of amusement, but to have power put into their hands to compel others not to go. He denied the right of the House or of any tribunal to lay down and enforce the duty which each man owed to a higher power. The resolution contained nothing that interfered with religious observances on Sunday; it dealt, too, with only national and Government institutions. Excellent as was the institution of Sunday, he had known instances in which its Sabbatical observance had been carried to an undesirable extent. There was no objection to opening the British Museum and National Gallery that did not go to stop excursion trains and lay an embargo upon steam vessels on Sundays.

Mr. NAPIER opposed the motion. He said that the words of Christ that "the Sabbath was made for man," had been misunderstood. The advocates for secularising the Sabbath had inferred from them that man could do what he liked on the sacred day.

Mr. CAIRNS denied, as Lord Stanley intimated, that the House was legislating against the conscience of the people. If the motion be agreed to, it would be impossible to prevent labour from being generally enforced on the Sabbath Day; nay, more, the artisan would have to work seven days for six days' pay.

Lord EMBINGTON, in supporting the motion, remarked that it was admitted that vast masses of the metropolitan population did not attend church, but desecrated the Sabbath. The question then was, could means not be adopted to wean them into better courses?

Lord PALMERSTON had not risen earlier in the debate from a feeling of respect to those who wished to express their opinions. It was not his intention to support the motion, but he was afraid his reasons would satisfy neither side. Under present circumstances, however, he thought the better course would be for the House not to resist, for so small an advantage, the general conviction of the country, but to negative the motion; and, to facilitate this object, he would suggest to Mr. Pellatt the propriety of withdrawing his amendment, the more especially as the trustees of the British Museum had increased the opportunities of visiting it.—Mr. PELLATT consented to take this course.

The House then divided, when there appeared for the motion, 48; against it, 376; majority against, 328.

The House then adjourned at ten minutes to twelve o'clock.

MURDER OF A DUCHESS OF FRANCE.—Paris, Feb. 20. The Duchess Caumont Laforce was murdered at nine o'clock this morning, at her house in the Grand Avenue, Champs Elysées. She was the wife of the Duke Caumont Laforce, the representative of two dukedoms, and a member of one of the best families in France. The Duke is a senator.

DREADFUL SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF TWENTY-NINE LIVES.—A shipwreck has occurred on the coast of South Wales, resulting in the total loss of the fine American ship the "Great Duke," 2,000 tons burden, with twenty-eight of the crew and the captain; only the chief mate and two seamen being saved.



A SKIRMISH BETWEEN KURDS AND PERSIANS.—(FROM A DRAWING BY PRINCE GAGARIN.)



COSTUMES OF THE NEW RUSSIAN RIFLEMEN, AND OF THE RUSSIAN MILITIA.



A PRIEST OF THE GRECO-RUSSIAN CHURCH AT THE MONASTERY OF TROITZA.

THE PERSIANS AND THE KURDS.

OUR late ambassador at the Court of the Shah, who struck his flag on account of some real or fancied affront that had been put upon him with reference to the wife of one of his subordinates, has, according to recent advices, succeeded in reaching Teheran, and this only after a fatiguing journey of twenty-six days, amid rain and snow. Here he was weather-bound, being, it is said, unable to continue his journey on account of the heavy snow-drift in which two caravans had been already lost.

What will be the upshot of this interruption of our diplomatic relations with the Eastern potentate, it is impossible at present to say. We have too much work on our hands at this moment to think of attempting to resent the affront by force of arms, even if so petty a quarrel would justify this course of proceeding. Possibly the Shah is aware of this. Like all despotic monarchs, he, too, has his hands full, for of the numerous tribes subject to his rule, one or other is always in revolt.

The Kurds, who inhabit the shores of the Arax, have never known how to support the yoke of the Shahs, and at the least offence on the part of the Persian authorities, they set to work to obtain justice at the point of the sword. In the cavalry skirmishes that take place between the contending parties, the aim of a horseman, with his long, ill-made fire-lock, is naturally uncertain. The Kurds, however, always go armed with a long bamboo lance, which they wield with wonderful ease, and with which they do terrible execution. A thrust from this lance into the body of an enemy comes with the force of an iron bar.

The scene of the contest represented in our engraving is near Etch-maidzin, one of whose three churches may be perceived, viz., that of Saint Rhipsimees. Before the persecution of the first Christians at Rome, Rhipsimees and other Roman ladies sought refuge in Armenia. They were unfortunate in their choice; for Tiridatus, who was not then a convert, cruelly persecuted those who prostrated themselves before the cross. It was he who confined St. Gregory in a well, where he remained thirteen years. Tiridatus, it seems, was struck with the beauty of Rhipsimees, but she would not marry a pagan; and the King, exasperated at her refusal, had her stoned to death, together with her companions. On the place of her execution Tiridatus, when converted, raised this church as an offering to the souls of his victims. It is a specimen of Armenian art in its infancy, and it has served as a model for the construction of several ancient churches of Transcaucasia.

THE NEW RUSSIAN RIFLE CORPS.

THE Emperor of Russia having favoured his well beloved crown-peasants with a fresh invitation to join the ranks of the newly-established "Rifle Corps to the Imperial family," this institution is not unlikely to take a prominent part in the next campaign, should the war be prolonged. The corps is apparently being formed on the voluntary principle, and, both by its commanders and men, is designed to be a *troupe d'élite*. In order to weaken the power of the nobility, the Emperor Nicholas abrogated bodily serfdom throughout the estates of the crown, securing thereby the goodwill of about five millions of men, and carrying on, at the same time, under pretence of humanity, the old antagonism against the nobles, which Peter the Great, sword in hand, had begun 150 years ago. There is, indeed, some consolation for mankind in the fact, that even czarish despotism, in order to strengthen autocracy, has been obliged to work for the good of those poor serfs, on whose shoulders the whole Russian empire leans. Since that reform of Nicholas, the crown-peasants have been treated as a sort of privileged class, and, in the present war, they, by being asked to volunteer, are already supposed to have ripened within them a feeling of honour and patriotism. The Emperor and the male members of his family have enlisted themselves in the Rifle corps, of course as colonels, captains, commanders *d'honneur*, whilst the actual officers have been merely granted the titles of vice-colonels, vice-captains, &c. When the staff of the corps left St. Petersburg for the seat of war, they had to parade before the Emperor, on which occasion they were entertained at a great festival, and sung a rather curious hyper-heroic hymn, the very interesting words of which have as yet been published only in Russian newspapers. It runs as follows:—

Glory in the heavens to the loftiest sun!
Glory!
Glory on the earth to the lofty Czar!
Glory!
Glory in the heavens to the shining stars!
Glory!
Glory on the earth to the Czarish Rifles!
Glory!
Their hand be always firm!
Glory!
Their eyes sharper than the quick falcon's!
Glory!
May God lead them to stand for little mother Russia—
Glory!
To escort our foes to the frontiers!
Glory!
May our ideas centre round our fatherland—
Glory!
Bequeathing all sorrows to the blue expanse!
Glory!
This cup we drink to holy Russia—
Glory!
That God may protect her most glorious land!
Glory!
That one of her Rifles may stand against three!
Glory!
That nothing greater be in the world than the Czar!
Glory!
That nothing stronger be than Russian fame!
Glory!
That nothing louder be than Russian renown!
Glory!
That nothing sound as full as Russian song!
Glory!
That nothing bolder be than the Imperial Rifles!
Slava! Slava! (Glory! Glory!)

After the termination of this song, the Czar, according to an old custom, drank the health of his new regiment in a glass of raki. And then the men were marched off to the Crimea, to prove by deeds during the next campaign the reality of their poetical feelings.

All the rest of the Crown peasantry were originally asked to volunteer as militiamen. This corps, however, forms at present a portion of the regular army. In the coming spring, perhaps, we shall see something more of them than their uniforms.

It ought to be remarked, that both the Rifles and the Drusheenes (Militia) wear the national kaftan and hatchet instead of the jacket and sword, introduced into Russia by the civilising Peter.

A PRIEST OF THE GRECO-RUSSIAN CHURCH.

ACCORDING to current report, the present Emperor of Russia is in every respect much more tolerant towards his subjects than his late father was. The military and religious system of that mighty empire has for many years past oppressed the energies of the people, and retarded the development of the country. The Muscovite population are not in their nature warlike. Their genius, we are assured, lies quite in another direction. This being the character and tendency of its people generally, we may reasonably hope that, under an Emperor noted for his "mildness," they will be treated with greater toleration, in a religious point of view, than they have hitherto been. Alexander, it is affirmed, "believes that the greatness of a country depends less on the amount of its armed force, than on the progress, wealth, and intelligence of its people." If this really be as here stated, and should the Conferences now being held in Paris terminate in peace, his Majesty will have leisure to direct his attention to the material, social, and religious welfare of his country. In this latter respect, as may be judged from what follows, there is in Russia great room for improvement; but the Emperor has already shown a disposition to enter upon this work by the creation of several Roman Catholic Bishops.

The accompanying engraving represents a Priest of the Greco-Russian Church coming forth from the monastery of Troitza, situated twenty

leagues from Moscow. The inn belonging to this convent, though spacious in structure, and apparently inviting to strangers, is, according to De Custine, literally infested with vermin, black and brown, of every form and of every species. They are probably the legacy of the pilgrims who repair to Troitza from every part of the empire, increased and multiplied under the shelter of the Shrine of St. Sergius, the founder of this famous convent. "The benediction of Heaven," says the same authority, "seems to attend their increase, which proceeds in this sacred asylum at a ratio unknown elsewhere." Chairs, tables, ceiling, floor, walls, teem with life. The churches of the convent are said to be as densely crowded with worshippers of the same earnest stamp. This physical loathsomeness seems more or less typical of the moral and spiritual degradation to which the Russian clergy have sunk. They are represented as ignorant, intolerant, sensual, and debauched; drinking, eating, sleeping, and chanting prayers as drunkards sing bacchanalian songs. Notwithstanding, the outward respect which the common people show them is still manifested in our own days by demonstrations such as our engraving depicts, and it is an every-day scene to witness in the environs of the churches, chapels, or cloisters of these monks, genuflections and profound salutations which seem to the eye of an Englishman more than ridiculous. In Russia their influence is, or at least has hitherto been, entirely subservient to the will or caprice of the Czar.

The education of the children is specially committed to the Greek monks. The Bible is prohibited, and the New Testament has been translated and mutilated expressly for the use of the people. The catechism for children teaches and commands them to love the Czar before God, and enjoins that it is a crime to love anyone else. The prayers are confined to the *pater* and the *credo*, with the Czar's addition—"I believe in God in heaven and in the Czar on earth."

The official costume of a priest consists of a long robe, either of linen or black or brown silk, according to the means of the wearer, of an overcoat with wide sleeves and cuffs turned up with fur, and of a tall cylindrical cap, ornamented at the bottom with a band of long fur. He wears upon his breast a plated or copper cross, suspended by a chain of the same metal; and usually carries a large Malacca cane, with a gold or ivory top, like that of a drum-major. This cane is not less than four feet and a-half long. In addition to his sacerdotal duties, the Russian priest sells *bogs*, which are coarse paintings on pieces of wood or thin plates of copper, representing the Virgin Mary, the Saviour, and a certain number of male and female saints held in most respect by the members of the Greek Church. The *bogs* in repute are let out, at a very high price, by the week or month.

The clergy is not paid by the state. They draw their means of livelihood directly from the people. The sum totals of the presents are left to the generosity of each individual, and amount to a very small sum. The best parishes in Moscow and St. Petersburg do not bring in £240 per annum.

Any individual may become a priest by going through the various menial offices connected with the priesthood, beginning with the lowest, and working his way upwards. He commences by allowing his beard and hair to grow, for these are the distinguishing signs of his office.

MR. SERJEANT WILKINS TAKEN ILL IN COURT.—On Monday morning, painful excitement was occasioned in the neighbourhood of the common law courts, at Guildhall, by the sudden and alarming illness of Mr. Serjeant Wilkins—an illness which at one period it was feared would terminate fatally. The Serjeant had been examining witnesses in a railway case in the Common Pleas, but was all at once seen to leave the court. After staggering with difficulty into the lobby, he became quite exhausted, and would have fallen but for the assistance of a number of gentlemen present. He was scarcely able to breathe, and was evidently suffering from spasmodic affection of the chest. Fortunately a number of medical gentlemen were present on the trial, and promptly rendered every assistance. The Serjeant was at once disrobed; his vest and neckcloth removed; stimulants and restoratives administered, but with very little effect; and his sufferings for upwards of an hour were painful in the extreme. After the lapse of half an hour he was placed in a cab, when the fit was renewed, and it became evident that to move him until he had rallied would be productive of extreme danger; but as soon as it was deemed safe, the Learned Counsel was removed quietly to his chambers in King's Bench-walk, Temple.

ALLEGED MURDER OF A CHILD IN HYDE PARK.—Mary Brummell, of No. 3, Little College Street, Chelsea, a respectable-looking young woman, was brought before the Marlborough Street Police Court, charged with drowning her infant child in the Serpentine. The body was found by a police constable, to whom the prisoner said she was sitting on a seat in Hyde Park, on Tuesday evening, crying, and with her infant in her lap; a gentleman came up to her, and asked her what was the matter. She told him she had a child by a young man, that she was totally destitute, and had nowhere to go to. The gentleman said, "Oh, give me the child, I'll relieve you of that burden." She gave the infant into his hands, when he gave her a shilling, and took the child away, leaving her sitting near the Marble Arch. When the charge was made at the station-house and read over to her, she repeated her statement, and from what she said it was inferred that the child had been born alive. Remanded for a week.

MYSTERIOUS MURDER IN STAFFORDSHIRE.—On Tuesday week an inquest was held at Swan village, near West Bromwich, South Staffordshire, on the body of Robert Grubbit, about 20 years of age, which was found in the canal on the previous Saturday. The throat was cut, and two large stones were in the pockets of the jacket, weighing, the one 7lb., and the other 2lb. A young woman named Harper stated that the deceased had been her fellow-servant at Mr. Beddard's, who resides at Dixon's Green, near Dudley, where he had been living for four years. On Thursday, the 17th of January last, a friend of the deceased called upon him about noon, and at 2 o'clock the deceased went out; and it was proved that from that hour until 5 o'clock he was at a public-house in the company of his friend, where they had two pints of ale together. At 5 o'clock he returned to Mr. Beddard's, when his fellow-servant said something to him about remaining out so long. He appeared offended, went out, and never returned. It was stated that he slept at the house of a friend of Harper's on the Friday night following, but there was nothing known of where he went subsequently. Mr. Tite, surgeon of West Bromwich, on making a *post mortem* examination of the body, came to the conclusion that the deceased had been stunned, his throat cut, and then thrown into the canal. The inquest was adjourned to enable the police to make further inquiries.

AN ATTEMPT AT SECRET POISONING.—COMMITTAL OF THE ACCUSED.—At the Police Court, Monmouth, on Saturday last, a farm labourer in the employ of Mr. Thomas Wanklyn, of Hadnock, was fully committed for trial at the next assizes for the county, upon a charge of having feloniously administered a quantity of sulphate of copper, to one Richard Tomkins, with intent to kill and murder him. Tomkins was a shepherd in the employ of Mr. Wanklyn, and there had been some previous misunderstanding between him and the prisoner. During the yearling season, Tomkins occupies a small cot, which is located amongst the flocks. In this cot, the door of which he seldom fastened, he usually kept his jar with cider for his meals. On the afternoon of Friday, being thirsty, he went to his cot to drink from his bottle. On taking a little of the contents he discovered a peculiar flavour, and finding that the draught had burnt his throat and stomach, he emptied the bottle, when he saw some partially dissolved lumps of blue stone. He at once suspected the prisoner, and on accusing him with an attempt to poison him, he seemed confused. Tomkins then proposed to arrest and search the prisoner, who, finding further evasion useless, produced from his pocket a quantity of sulphate of copper in similar lumps to those which had been found in the bottle. Tomkins soon afterwards was seized with vomitings and pains, and swelling of the bowels, and he accordingly procured the assistance of a surgeon, who administered antidotes. The surgeon deposed that, for some time, Tomkins's life was in danger, but in all probability he would now recover.

ADDRESS FROM THE IRISH BAR ON THE LATE MOTION IN PARLIAMENT.—It is stated that an address from the Irish bar to the Lord Chief Justice Levey and Baron Pennefather is in preparation on the subject of the late motion in the House of Commons. A similar address from the attorneys and solicitors is in contemplation.

SUICIDE OF MR. JOHN SADLEIR, M.P.

ON Sunday last, a donkey-driver found the body of a gentleman on Hampstead Heath, and immediately had it conveyed to the workhouse. From a paper found in his pockets, it was supposed to be the body of Mr. Saddleir, M.P. for Sligo, who was, for a short time, one of the Lords of the Treasury, under the Earl of Aberdeen, and has long been the chairman of the London and County Bank. The collar of his shirt, and a cambric pocket-handkerchief, were also marked with the name of Saddleir. In his pockets were found—£7 in gold; Bank of England note of £5, No. 32,302, 12s. 6d. in silver, and 3d. in copper; a silver cream ewer, washed with gold, crest "lion rampant," containing a portion of bitter almonds, bottle containing a portion of bitter almonds, labelled as such in six places, and marked "poison;" razor-case containing two razors, white handles; lead pencil; some loaf sugar, and blotting-paper, paper knife, and steel blade. The deceased had on a black hat, name Christy, Bond Street, gray wrapper, with frock-coat, raised silk plush waistcoat, fancy waist trousers, gray lambs' wool socks, walking shoes, buckskin gloves, black silk neckerchief, and a fancy shirt. Dr. Nichol, of Hampstead, was in immediate attendance, and pronounced life to have been extinct some hours, and, to all appearance, from the essential oil of bitter almonds. Dr. Nichol at once proceeded to the residence of Mr. Saddleir, M.P., 11, Gloucester Square, Hyde Park, and saw the housekeeper only, who informed him that she bought the poison the day before, at Maitland's, Chester Terrace, Hyde Park, by her master's orders, that her master wrote many letters on the Saturday, and one to a Mr. Norris, who was expected at his house in the course of the day. At a later period of the day two gentlemen visited Hampstead, and identified the body as that of Mr. Saddleir.

It seems that the deceased was at his club up till half-past 10 on Saturday night, at which hour he returned to his residence, 11, Gloucester Square. At the club his friends observed nothing strange in his manner, and when he arrived home he seemed in his usual calm state of mind. He then ordered coffee, and, as he required nothing further, the servants, as was usual with them at that hour, retired to rest, leaving their master up, drinking his coffee. Whether he went out immediately after taking the coffee, or remained in until early the following morning, and then strolled up to Hampstead, no one can say, but the latter is the presumption, although at the same time it is certain that he did not go to bed that night, as his bed was found undisturbed the following (Sunday) morning, and when the servants got up they found their master absent. Indeed his hours were so uncertain, on account of his Parliamentary duties, that the servants were not alarmed at his absence on the morning in question, for they considered he might have made an appointment late the previous night. He was in the habit of staying at Hampstead, at Jack Straw's Tavern, and his lifeless body was found only a few yards from that inn.

At the inquest, held on Tuesday, Joseph Elwin, butler to the late Mr. Saddleir, was called, and said—About 7 o'clock on Saturday evening, his master gave him a paper, in his own handwriting, to take to Mr. Maitland, the chymist. This paper, which was produced, was written in a bold flowing hand, and was exactly as follows:—"Get from Maitland's a bottle of the essential oil of bitter almonds; I don't know the quantity wanted, but—Kenyon writes to me to bring £1 worth. Pay my bill at Maitland's." Kenyon was stated by a gentleman present, to be the deceased's groom, and to have care of his stud of hunting horses at Leighton Buzzard. Witness went to Maitland's, but the assistant could not give it to him at that time. He asked the assistant what quantity of the article a sovereign would purchase, and he replied, about half-a-pint. After 9 o'clock Mr. Saddleir asked him if anything had come from Maitland's. Witness said there had not. Mr. Saddleir wished him to go for it, but witness sent the kitchenmaid. She returned with a bottle wrapped up in paper, which he laid by Mr. Saddleir's side on the table. Mr. Saddleir was then sitting with his back to him, and apparently reading, and did not speak to witness. He had lived with the deceased upwards of 18 months. The deceased was a temperate and sober man. He only drank a glass of two of sherry with his dinner. He had not of late noticed any change in the deceased's manner.

Hannah Bishop, kitchenmaid to the deceased, corroborated the butler's evidence.

Mr. A. Norris, of Bedford Row, solicitor, said—Mr. Saddleir, I saw last alive shortly before 11 o'clock on Saturday night, at his house, and was with him about half-an-hour. I had known him since 1843, and had frequently transacted business with him. He was engaged in several public concerns. He appeared oppressed by his undertakings. Latterly, he seemed rather haggard. During the last week particularly I had noticed a great change in his appearance. He appeared to be quite borne down by the extent of his business, and particularly by some losses and pecuniary embarrassments which had lately come upon him; and it was about these that he talked to me during our interview on Saturday night. During the interview I noticed his eyes were bloodshot. He was very restless, and evidently not in his usual temperance. His life was insured some years ago. When I left Mr. Saddleir about half-past three on Saturday afternoon, he made an appointment with me for Sunday morning. He said he would rather I would not call on Saturday evening, because he wanted to collect his papers and to be alone. In consequence, however, of receiving a letter from Ireland after leaving him on Saturday afternoon, which concerned him, I went and saw him again that evening. He seemed surprised when I went in, and was walking about the room, which was very unusual with him. I thought I perceived a very great redness and peculiarity about the eyes, as if he had been weeping. The communication I made to him on Saturday night was not of a distressing character. It had reference to the events that had pressed upon him during the week. I called next morning to keep my appointment with him at eleven o'clock, and then I learned for the first time that he was dead. He had left a letter for me in the hall. It was written by Mr. Saddleir, and dated Saturday night.

The Coroner—Have you brought that letter with you?

Witness said he had been much affected ever since the death of Mr. Saddleir, and had really forgotten to bring the letter. Witness further said—In the course of Saturday afternoon, I made a remark in Mr. Gurney's office, that I should not be surprised if Mr. Saddleir were to shoot himself. The reason I made that remark was, that Mr. Saddleir was a man of extraordinary clearness and strength of mind, and my impression was, that his reverses, coming suddenly upon him, as they did, his mind would break down at once.

After some additional evidence of an unimportant nature was given, the inquest was adjourned till Monday next, in order to afford time for the production of the letters written by the deceased on the night preceding his death, and any further evidence that could be adduced to show the state of his mind at that time. The jury, through the Coroner, said that in making that request, they had no wish to go unnecessarily into the private or family affairs of the unfortunate gentleman, or to cause any pain to his surviving relatives.

With reference to the reported stoppage of the Tipperary Joint Stock Bank (with which the late Mr. Saddleir was so closely connected), the "Freeman" says:—

"The bank never did any business in Dublin, and always transacted their agency at the Bank of Ireland. They never issued notes, but availed themselves of a provision in the Bank Act, enabling them to issue Bank of Ireland notes on the terms laid down in the Act. Their paid-up capital is said to be about £50,000 in £10 shares, but the amount of deposits is believed to be very large. The list of shareholders of the bank appeared in the 'Gazette' a few days ago. It consists chiefly of English proprietors, there being, out of 99 names, 68 in England, the rest being chiefly in the locality, only a single shareholder, a highly respectable solicitor, residing in Dublin. The English proprietors are chiefly in the agricultural districts, two-thirds of the entire number being in the four counties of Essex, Bedford, Hertford, and Buckingham. There are 24 farmers in the list, and five Members of Parliament."

A MISERABLE-LOOKING WOMAN, NAMED WEBSTER, aged 24, was placed before the Clerkenwell Police-court, charged on her own confession, with having caused the death of her child, eleven months old.

A WOMAN OF UXBRIDGE, named Harris, was on Saturday last committed for the wilful murder of her two children.

A MEMOIR OF MRS. FITZGERBERT is announced for immediate publication, by the Hon. Charles Langdale, the brother of Lord Stourton, who was her executor.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1856.

THE PEERS AND THE CROWN.

THE "Life Peerage" question, terminate how it may, at present costs so many points of interest, that we return to it once more. The English pass for an "aristocratic" people, but the amount of confusion and ignorance among them on all questions relating to peerage is wonderful.

We are told that this is the Crown's doing, and we are told that it is the Crown's doing. But whether the present Sovereign be really curious on the subject or not, it would be highly improper for any royal claim should be abandoned—since future Sovereigns ought to be considered as well as existing ones. No one, who observes the current of movement in England, can doubt that great political excitements become more probable every year; and when such come, let the Crown of England have every power that belongs to it. It has never abandoned the one before us—that, at least, nobody can deny; and we maintain that it is the people's interest to back up the Crown in every case where it has a plausible right. We no longer need fear any danger to our liberties from that quarter; our dangers are from the male-administration which is the fruit of our party system, from combinations of wealthy families engrossing power which they cannot administer, and governing, not by force, but by corruption. In other words, our dangers are from a kind of bastard aristocratic system, which is based neither on blood nor money exclusively, but on a union of the two, and which talks democracy every now and then to flatter the multitude for its own purposes. To this system we owe the LUCANS and CARDIGANS (the CARDIGAN peerage, by-the-by, was virtually a law peerage), the hangers, and the jobbers. The truth is, it is (as people say) "neither one thing nor the other." It is not like the old baronial government, one purely aristocratic, administered by a Sovereign; nor it postpones COURTNEYS and DEVEREUXS to PAGETS and SMITHS. It is not democratic, for it everywhere gives the preference to connection. It is somewhat like the oligarchy of Holland, which so degraded the country that the people rose for the House of Orange, and flung all power into their hands in sheer dread of disaster and dishonour. We have not come to this pitch, partly because material prosperity (independent of administration) keeps us tolerably contented, though grumbling—partly because the sea keeps us from being invaded—and partly because our money-grubbers carry their influence over to the "system," in the hope that two generations of servility and borough-mongering will enable them to call themselves the representatives of the BOHUNS and the GAUNTS. When a man makes a fortune in this country, he sticks "de" before his name, and talks about—

"The Barons of England, who fight for the Crown,"

as if he had as many quarters as a canon of Strasbourg. The set of affairs is, in fact, towards oligarchy, and towards oligarchy ruled by money. The Crown has been gradually disappearing from any apparent share in the Government at all. Only now and then a whisper of "sinister influence" is set going—a "sinister influence" in this chivalrous age meaning an influence emanating from the boudoir of her MAJESTY. Indeed, we expect to see the opening of Parliament in State quarrelled with before long, like the Lord Mayor's Show, as an "interruption to traffic."

Things being so, we are for stinging to any plausible claim of the Crown to an exercise of the prerogative, whether 400 years old or not. The laws of England are much older, and so is trial by jury. The Crown exercises its prerogative at its convenience, according to times and places; and it is of opinion, seemingly, that this one is convenient now. Do its rights lapse by time? Or did the settlement of 1688 include any provision interfering with the rights of the Crown in the matter of creations of peerage? Not so. BOLINGBROKE approved that settlement as much as any Whig; but writing in 1733, he said, "The Crown is the source of honours. This no man disputes."

But we are told that the Crown may give a title, but not give a seat in the Peers. It may dub a man, as they say CHARLES the Second dubbed a joint of beef Sir-John; it may give a barren ornament, but no more.

This is contradictory to the constitution. Peers are so called—they are called *peers* or *peers*—by dint of being *peers* or equals as members of the King's Court. They owe their existence and their names to the King. Nor has any research—such, for instance, as that of the "Lords' Committee on the Dignity of a Peer"—been able to show that the greatest barons sat in Parliament by any other right than the King's writ. The King sometimes sent writs to a man, and did not summon him again. There are families now among the gentry whose ancestors sat in Parliament as barons, before three-fourths of the existing peerage had been heard of in England—such as the WAKES, BLOUNTS, CLAVINGS, and BEAUMONTS. The laws which regulated these summonses cannot now be ascertained. It is certain that great barons were summoned, and expected to be summoned. Their importance was caused by the lands they held, and the following they could command.

But are we to have these old feudal airs now—from the descendants of HARRY the Eighth's stable-boys and CHARLES the Second's girls? Why, *titular* creations like the present are quite modern affairs, alone. The old earls were *bona fide* governors of the towns and counties from which they took their titles. A few claimed to sit in Parliament by dint of their siefs, pleading ancient custom. But nearly the whole existing peerage has been created since the feudal period—has owed its existence to monarchs who claimed and exercised a power to make peers quite apart from the question, what lands they had, or from any consideration but their own good will. JAMES the First's nurse asked that monarch (who, though a pedant, had humour) to make her son a gentleman. "Na, na," answered he in broad Scotch, "I can mak' him a lord, but I cauna mak' him a gentleman!" He made his lords by "patents," and if their heirs succeeded, they succeeded because the patent provided for descendants. Why did it generally provide so? Because it was convenient

and customary. But the provision for "heirs" shows that heirs need not necessarily inherit; or why insert it? How comes the Crown to grant various patents, some extending the succession more widely than others? Does not this amount to a power analogous, at least, to the power now discussed, and certainly sometimes exercised?

We must consider, it appears to us, that the modern "patent" represents the old "writ," though a writ still accompanies a patent. Both, however, issue from the Crown. The House cannot recruit itself; should it be able to lay down restrictions on the acts of the power to which it owes its origin?

But apart from all this, the House of Lords has changed to such a degree that its future changes can only be regulated by public convenience. Public convenience demands that it shall properly discharge its appellate jurisdiction. Public convenience is injured by our being saddled with the descendants of lawyers and jobbers. The public respect for wealth and status is quite strong enough to hinder any Minister from giving life peerages to paupers or robbers, and hereditary creations are not to be discontinued necessarily, even if life peerages become habitual. As for "danger to the Crown," the Crown is as popular an institution and as important as the House of Lords. Its existence is as necessary to that House, as that House is necessary to it. We should be sorry to see the Fountain of Honour locked up, and the key in the pocket of ex-Chancellor CAMPBELL.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN AND PRINCE ALBERT, accompanied by the Princess Royal and Prince Alfred, honoured the Olympic Theatre with their presence on Monday evening.

THE COURT, it is expected, will return to Windsor Castle for the Easter vacation, about the 19th of March, when the Princess Royal will receive the holy rite of confirmation.

SERGEANT-MAJOR D. SCOTT of the Royal Artillery, on Saturday last, put an end to his life by hanging himself with a rope at the back of the door of the room in which he resided at Woolwich.

THE HEALTH OF THE EMPRESS DOWAGER OF RUSSIA causes some apprehension.

THE POPE, on the 21st ult., celebrated the holiday of St. Agnes in the church dedicated to her in the Piazza Navone.

THE FRENCH EXHIBITION, with Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair," as the attraction, has been opened with great success in Liverpool.

SIR EDMUND LYONS, G.C.B., was entertained by a numerous circle of his naval friends on Saturday evening last, preparatory to returning to resume the command of the fleet in the Black Sea.

THE DUKE OF PORTLAND is having a great number of hares netted alive on his estates near Mansfield, for the purpose of being sent to France as a present to the Emperor.

MR. JOHN LAWLER, the sculptor, has received a commission from Prince Albert for a copy, in marble, of his figure of "The Bath."

MARSHAL PASKIEWITCH was, of all the military men in Europe, the one who had received the greatest number of decorations, the orders of which he wore the insignia amounting to 27.

ZOGIDI, the residence of the Princess Dadian, the representative of the ancient Royal Family in Mingrelia, has been destroyed by fire.

ABRAHAM, the VETERAN VOCALIST, whose declining years have been passed in the most cheerful comfort, secured to him by the care of his daughter, Lady Waldegrave, died suddenly on Sunday last.

LORD JAMES BUTLER and MAJOR NASMYTH who have both met with rather serious hunting accidents within the last few days, have almost recovered from the injuries which they received.

MR. BEHNES has been commissioned to execute a statue of the late Edward Baines, of Leeds; the figure to be eight feet high, and the price 700 guineas.

MR. BRUGHT has been unable to resume his seat in Parliament this session, in consequence of indisposition arising from an affection of the liver.

ONE HUNDRED BRASS GUNS FROM KARS have been placed in Alexander Square, Tiflis.

A COMPANY FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF BRANDY FROM BEET-ROOT is about to commence operations at Limerick.

SERGEANT BRODIE, lately sergeant saddler of the 1st Royal Dragoons, who will be favourably remembered for the part he took in reference to the duel between two officers, at Canterbury, has been appointed, by Lord Panmure, Inspecting Foreman of Saddlery at Weedon-Beck.

A MEETING, at which many distinguished men were present, was held last Saturday, at Willis's Rooms, for the purpose of taking measures to erect some memorial to the memory of the late Joseph Hume, M.P.

THE ANGLIO-ITALIAN LEGION organised in Piedmont amounts at present to 3,000 men.

MADAME AMALIA FERRARIS is at present the star of the ballet at Rome.

LORD PANMURE has ordered, that in consequence of the affair of Colonel Turr, no Austrian officers are to be admitted into the Anglo-Italian Legion unless they produce a regular discharge from the Austrian service.

THE OFFICIAL INQUIRY into the recent loss of the New Zealand emigrant ship Josephine Willis was concluded on Tuesday last at the Thames Police-court, and the proceedings will shortly be reported to the Board of Trade.

AN EXTENSIVE ROBBERY was committed at a jeweller's, at Southampton, on Monday night, when watches and jewellery, valued at nearly £1,000, were stolen from the shop of Mr. Edwards, in the High street of that town.

HER MAJESTY, ACCOMPANIED BY PRINCE ALBERT and a party of ladies, on Tuesday visited the Arsenal at Woolwich, for the purpose of inspecting the Russian trophies, of which engravings appeared in our paper a fortnight since.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to grant to Admiral Sir E. Lyons, G.C.B., permission to accept and wear the grand cross of the military order of Savoy, which the King of Sardinia has conferred upon him.

BARON BRUNOW met Count Morny at the house of the Princess Lieven, on the day after his arrival in Paris. The conversation is said to have been very confidential.

DIVERS EXAMINED THE CONDITION of the sunken ship Josephine Willis on Saturday last, when they found her in an upright position, but on account of the great quantity of broken rigging and sails, which hung horizontally over the deck, they were precluded from getting to it.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA is reported to have, in the autograph letter with which he charged Count Buol, offered Napoleon III. a cavalry regiment that would bear his name.

THE LEOMINSTER ELECTION took place this week, when Mr. Hardy, the Conservative candidate, was returned by a majority of 78.

THE PORTO, it is stated, will demand at the Peace Conference that the Principality shall remain distinct, but admitting for each of them the establishment of a hereditary Hospodar.

THE EARLS OF LUCAN and CARDIGAN have addressed letters to Lord Panmure, defending themselves against the charges to which they have recently been exposed.

MR. CARLYLE, MR. DICKENS, and MR. FORSTER, of the "Examiner," have written to the "Times," stating that the sum raised on behalf of Dr. Johnson's goddaughter is little over £250, but that the price of such a life annuity as was proposed proves cheaper than was anticipated.

SIR JOHN STODART, late Chief Justice of Malta, died, on the 16th inst., at Brompton Square; and at the Law Amendment Society, next evening, Lord Brougham took occasion to announce the demise of this eminent person.

THE MARIA, of Liverpool, Capt. Russell, has been wrecked on the coast of Algarve, near Lagos, where she now lies.

THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF 1840, in place of that of 1819, has occasioned a Ministerial crisis in Hanover, and several members of the Cabinet have tendered their resignations to the King.

THE DUKE OF NEMOURS has sent the Duke de Montmorency to Venice, with a letter, thanking the Count de Chambord for the solicitude which he had manifested during the illness of the ex-Queen of the French.

THE HAMPSHIRE MILITIA has now given to the Guards, Marines, and the Line 560 men, and also 360 to the Hampshire Militia Artillery; total, 860 men.

THE FINE OLD SHIP THE WILLIAM FAME, which, nearly a hundred years ago, bore the celebrated General Wolfe from England to Quebec, is now lying in Messrs. Wilmott's dry docks, Newport, to undergo a few slight repairs.

THE CELEBRATED GERMAN POET, Henry Heine, died on Monday night in Paris.

THE SUNKEN SHIPS OF WAR at Sebastopol are about to be destroyed by submarine galvanic batteries.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE civil servants of the Government, who have long been in hopes of some amelioration of their superannuation act, the principles of which I explained to you a few weeks ago, are growling over the manner in which, on Friday night last, their case was discussed in the House of Commons. The Chancellor of the Exchequer denied many facts stated as the grounds of their memorial, and argued as though they were rather a well-treated body of men generally. Sir James Graham and Sir F. Baring, who had been most instrumental in the preparation of the present act, could see nothing unjust in it; the civil servants were undoubtedly a very respectable body of men, but they had nothing to complain of. A Mr. Rich went farther, saying that it was evident that their appointments must be most lucrative, as there were still plenty of candidates for them! To be sure Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Roebuck stood up for them, the former saying that when they had promised their servants a boon they gave them a tax, and that the Superannuation Act was an act of spoliation; but the Chancellor of the Exchequer gained his point; the bill has been referred to a committee, and the poor Government serubs may go on paying their per cent. out of their wretched salaries, until they are too blind and too old to continue, when, perhaps, a generous country will reward them with sixteen-sixtieths of the salary they are receiving at the time.

While the various subscribers to the Nightingale Fund are carrying on a pleasant internecine war among themselves as to what shall be the exact object of the charity, and while the gentleman attached to St. Barnabas, in Limico, has hit upon this singularly happy way of once more bringing his venerated institution before the public, a committee, consisting of well known physicians and philanthropists, has been appointed by the Epidemiological Society, for the purpose of determining the feasibility of a plan to secure throughout the country, nurses available for the labouring population, when attacked by epidemic disorders, such as fevers, cholera, &c., and when at any time overtaken by sickness. Who can doubt that this is a step in the right direction? The printed circular of the committee is written in an earnest, simple, straightforward spirit. Here is an extract:—

"Sickness, from the want of proper and early precaution and separation, spreads more easily among the poor than among the rich. The spread of disease among the labouring classes affects the wealthy classes in a variety of ways: by the extension of disease, the loss of service, the indirect cost in charitable institutions, and the direct cost in increased poor rates. It must be self-evident, that anything incapacitating the father of a family from work, vitally and immediately affects the well-being of the whole household; it is scarcely less so when other members are afflicted. For example: the wife of a labouring man is taken ill, and has no assistance; she, therefore, loses not only the power of attending to her young family and domestic duties, but, probably, also, some little earnings as a charwoman or sempstress; the husband returns from his work to a comfortless home, and is required to act as nurse to the patient and to the children; he is taxed beyond his strength, and falls ill in consequence; both parents succumb, and the offspring becomes the charge of their parish. Or, again, a widow with a small family is called upon, in the case of illness of a child, to choose the alternative of sacrificing the pittance she can earn by remaining at home, or of leaving her sick child alone, or, perhaps, to the careless supervision of an elder child or a neighbour: results equally as distressing as the one detailed in the former instance take place here. Such and similar instances are of daily occurrence, but society fails to recognise one very important link in the chain of causes leading to such results."

It appears that there are nearly 20,000 able-bodied women in the 553 unions of England; and the committee propose that, by an order of the Poor Law Board, it be made imperative upon the master or matron of a workhouse to put these females through a systematic course of training in the kitchen and infirmary. Duly qualified nurses would thus always be found ready to attend at the bedsides of the poor.

Have you seen, Sir, the awful petition anent "the laws of property as they affect women," sheets of which are lying for signature at various publishers? Such a strong-minded document! Redolent of blue spectacles, shaved foreheads, and classical head-dresses! Full of such long-winded sentences and telling paragraphs, and "nasty" hits at the sterner sex. Think of this, that "since modern civilisation, in indefinitely extending the sphere of occupation for women, has in some measure broken down their pecuniary dependence upon men, it is time that legal protection be thrown over the produce of their labour, and that in entering the state of marriage they no longer pass from freedom into the condition of a slave, all of whose earnings belong to his master." The best part of it is, that the "ladies sanctioning" this measure are principally tough old spinsters, who cannot possibly imagine that any chance of ever possessing a liege lord is still open to them.

By the way, last week I mentioned the fact of a French Insurance Company undertaking fire risks on English property, and stated that barristers were at issue as to the legality of the proceeding. It appears that this Company, and also the French Omnibus Company, now working several of our London lines of road, are established in Paris under the French law of the *Société en Commandite*, an explanation of the regulations of which has been published in a very lucid and generally intelligible pamphlet by Mr. Wordsworth.

Your readers must have observed some time ago a letter from Mr. Benjamin Webster, to the Editor of the "Times," written in a very sensible spirit, suggesting that actors and their children should be granted some benefit from the surplus stores of Dulwich College, which was founded by Edward Alleyn, himself a member of the sock and buskin fraternity. The letter was favourably commented on in a leading article, and has since been frequently the subject of laudation in those circles in which theatrical matters are not yet considered too vulgar to afford matter for discussion; and on the 13th of March, a meeting will be held at the Adelphi Theatre, when the best means for carrying into effect Mr. Webster's views will be discussed and decided upon. Mr. Charles Dickens will be in the chair, and it is expected that a very large number of theatrical and literary celebrities will be present. Apropos of the Adelphi, on Saturday next, from day of publication, her Majesty will pay her first visit to the theatre, since she has been Queen. When Princess Victoria, she used frequently to go to the Adelphi. The theatre is to be rebuilt and enlarged in the summer; Frederick Yates used to say, that if he made the audience comfortable, he was sure they would desert him, but Mr. Webster argues differently, and I hear the Queen has expressed her wish that proper accommodation be provided for her in the new house.

Talking of theatrical matters, I hear that Professor Owen has in his possession a most admirable plaster mask of Shakspeare's head, which, from the fact that the hair is also developed, it is imagined must have been taken during the poet's lifetime. It was purchased by the person who gave it to the Professor at one of the annual fairs in Darmstadt, and is supposed to have been the property of the Dutch Ambassador who was over here in the time of Elizabeth.

English opera is once more undergoing a trial in the metropolis, Covent Garden being this time the scene of operation. The "Bohemian Girl" was produced on Monday night, with a Mr. Haigh, a new tenor, as Thaddeus. Mr. Haigh has a peculiarly sweet and pleasing voice, but wants practice and cultivation. A year or two's provincial experience, and I should think he will take a good position. "Lucy Escott" (Miss or Mrs., why not say one or the other?) was Arline, but laboured under a severe cold and hoarseness. Mr. Farquharson was bold and good as Devilshoof, the rest of the company being mere sticks. At Drury Lane, "Taking by Storm," an old Lyceum piece, has been produced with success. It is or was the fashion to look upon the Surrey Theatre as a mere receptacle for pieces of the blood-and-thunder school. This is a mistake. Under the present management many improvements have taken place; the theatre is now filled by a most respectable audience; and the other night I saw a capital melodrama, called "Shadows of Crime," the principal character of which was excellently played by Mr. Creswick.

Mr. Russell has obtained an extension of his *congé*, and does not leave for the Crimea until Saturday, the 23rd.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT received by the French Minister of War for the Crimean fund, is, up to the present time, 961,425*l.* 23*s.*

THE POPE, after a longer delay than usual, is stated to have filled up the vacancy left by the death of the late Roman Catholic Bishop of Kildare, with the Very Rev. Dr. Walsh.

ART UNDER THE HAMMER.

THE return of the London season can be known by various outward signs. The town—which, since the departure of its inhabitants, has undergone two stages, one, from August to November, of unbroken dulness and melancholy, the other, from November to February, of cold and fog and forced festivity—seems with the commencement of the shortest month in the year to awake from its lethargy. House-painters, in wondrously spotted calico jackets and flat caps, take possession of various West End pavements, throwing a ladder from the footway to the top of the house, at such an acutely adjusted angle, that the passer-by, finding he would be inevitably brained were he to pursue his straightforward course, is compelled to retreat into the road, greatly to the damage of those lustrous patent boots which have seen light for the first time. Now is Parliament summoned, and now also do representatives return from their various occupations to the delights of late hours, a badly ventilated place of assembly, and a certainty of being worried to death by place-hunting applicants. The county members and the "old family" men who have always town as well as country houses, lead a state of bachelor existence, and quarter themselves at the Tavistock or the Hummums (hotels associated with their early youth and their University days), for the great town mansion is undergoing cleansing and paint, and "my lady and the girls" are stopping down at Wheatborough until Grosvenor Square is ready to receive them. And a very good time do these old fellows have of it during the absence of their liege appropriators; many and various are the magnums of old port disinterred from dust and cobwebs in the cellars of the London Tavern and the Gray's Inn Coffee House; much is the skill of M. Petitpois, the *chef de cuisine* at the Conservative or the Reform, tested; much is the temper of Mr. Redseele, the butler of the club, tried. Now do the men who hold horses for the Pall Mall loungers, and who, during the winter, have been in the chrysalis state of seedy great-coat, or even the homely and domestic sack thrown over their shoulders, appear in the butterfly apparel of the red velvet jacket; now do they take up their position at the corners of the accustomed streets, and salute their known customers with profoundest reverences. Now do linkmen (what the deuce do linkmen do when people are out of town?) polish up their dusty old lights, and learn from footmen and the "Morning Post" what parties are about to be given; now do they haunt the neighbourhood of the squares until unearthly hours in the morning, and roar and bellow for "my lady's carriage," or "your honour's cab," until their voices become mere hoarse evaporations.

Now do the steamers from Ostend and Calais deposit on our shores bundles of black and sea-drenched clothes, with sallow faces peering from under their tasselled hoods. The bundles fling themselves into London-bound trains; and two days afterwards do we read in the papers that Signor Moltodigito, the renowned pianist, has returned to town for the season, and that Madame Joliejambe has established herself at No. 930, New Bond Street, where she purposes giving *leçons de danse*, including the celebrated Bessarabian pas "La Kramouski," as danced by the *haut ton* in Paris. Now do gentlemen of fantastic appearance, wondrous hats, and unapproachable beards, make their *début* on the Regent Street *paré*, ogling the female passers-by with extraordinary foreign assurance, and maledicting the cloudy sky and soaked roads with true Gallic emphasis. Now are large men with shaved cheeks, and hair cut close for the more convenient wearing of wigs, seen hovering round the stage door of the Royal Italian Opera, or grinding between their clenched teeth fragments of operatic *morceaux* and the butt ends of paper cigarettes simultaneously. Now, in the neighbourhoods of Percy Street, Newman Street, Charlotte Street

and Golden Square, in that region which, *par excellence*, may be called the Quartier des Arts, may be heard the strumming of pianos, the twanging of harps, and the blowings of cornets; for there reside those geniuses whose "Reminiscences" and "Souvenirs," whose polkas and waltzes, whose "Chants du Soir" and concertos in double X, will be the musical "events" of the coming season. Now do tailors and milliners wake up with renewed vigour, and devise the most cruciatingly-lovely garments; and now does the editor of the "Belle Assemblée" or the "Follét des Dames," employ his brightest colours in the sketches of those inane looking ladies whose figures adorn his frontispiece.

And now—for it is time I finished my protracted exordium—and now does the art-world arouse itself for its yearly struggle. Now does the British Institution lead



GILLINGHAM.—(BY J. LINNELL.)



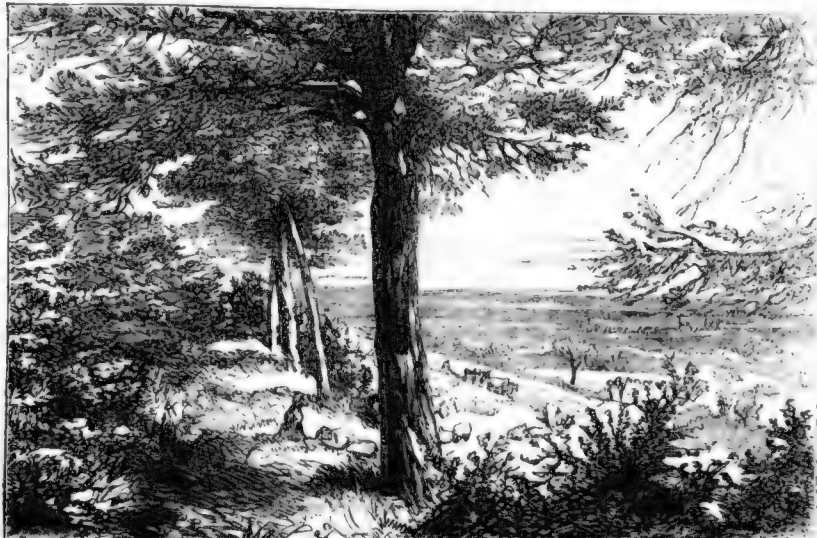
LA FILLE MAL GARDEE.—(BY D. MACLISE, R.A.)



CANTERBURY, ON THE STOUR.—(BY T. S. COOPER, A.R.A.)



LAKE COMO.—(BY C. STANFIELD, R.A.)



FIRS AND FURZE.—(BY J. LINNELL.)

the van, closely followed by the old and New Water Colour, the Suffolk Street, the home for distressed daubers, the Portland Gallery in Langham Place, and last, not least, but certainly greatest, the Royal Academy. Now does Wardour Street rejoice, and Gerrard and Lisle Streets thrill with anticipation; for has not the season begun? is not Sir Raphael Rowley coming to town? will not Lord Aquarrelle want some gems for his gallery, and what are they to be purchased but the aforementioned regions? Ikey Solomon has retainers; ay, by Moses, has cunning artificers, talented workmen with the camel's hair, skilled wielders of the mahl-stick, wonderful reproducers of the old masters. No matter what specimens are required, Ikey Solomon possesses them, or will get them for you in a very short lapse of time—Raphaels, Gerard Dows, Teniers boozing and dancing, Claude landscapes with long canals and setting suns, Cuyper cattle browsing and dreamily looking out of the canvas at the spectator, kneeling saints, prodigious Venuses with and without torches, Virgins and children, dead birds, St. Laurences on the gridiron, Silenus and the Fauns, Susannahs and Elders, rapes of Ganymede and Proserpine, Europas and Bulls, adorations of shepherds, baroness-sleeping nymphs, Narcissuses, Didos and Eneases, Moseses with grosses of green spectacles, bodies of Harold found days after battles of Hastings,—anything you want, any style you prefer, master you like to name, English or foreign, ancient or modern, speak but to Solomons, and he will set to work the fudgers, vamps, and copyists, who form portions of his staff, and produce what you require in a twinkling.

And now, if you take the trouble to read the last side of that sheet of the "Times" which we used to call the supplement, but which now in reality is the commencement of the paper, you will find, under the names of certain well-known auctioneers, announcements that on such a day the well-known collection of pictures of Blank Blank, Esq., whose researches in the cause of art have justly obtained a more than local celebrity, including some of the gems of so-and-so and so-and-so, will be sold by auction at twelve for one o'clock precisely. Are you a student of men? does it delight you to move among your fellow creatures, to see and reflect upon the varieties of character which they display? If so, I advise you to attend one of these sales. Passing through a lobby hung round with catalogues of forthcoming auctions, you will enter a long narrow room, lighted by a skylight in the roof, at the further end of which is fixed the desk of the auctioneer. Utterly different to your preconceived notions of this class of persons (notions built principally, you must confess, upon popular rumour and smart writers' descriptions), you will find the present specimen a quiet gentlemanly man, with a thorough knowledge of pictures, and most likely a choice collection of them at home. It is a few minutes before the time of commencement; so occupy yourself in looking round the room. A motley assemblage, in truth. That middle-aged gentlemanly-looking man, with the clear blue eye and the bald forehead, will be one of the keenest bidders. Not on his own account, though; he is the best judge of paintings in England, and is the agent of a Noble Marquis, whose collection of pictures, consisting of a series of *chefs d'œuvre*, has been gathered together at the cost of the almost incredible sum of £200,000. The short mangy-looking man in the camel cloak with the poodle collar, is also an agent, and is generally retained in the service of the Government. Those wild-looking bearded men standing in a knot in the corner of the room, gesticulating so vehemently, and talking so loudly, are artists, come here to chat, to criticise, anything but to buy. That sturdy-looking man with the fine high forehead and sensible face, writes F.S.A. after his

name, and is a contributor to several art periodicals; he is already engaged in taking notes, and, while really deep in thought, is apparently scowling at a "Turner" before him in a way that would excite Mr. Ruskin's warmest indignation. There are the professional buyers, whose quick bright eyes, hooked noses, and generally mildewed appearance, at once proclaim their Jewish origin. There are young men come in to kill time, and old men whom Time has very nearly killed. But the clock strikes one; immediately after the clock strikes, the auctioneer ascends his desk, and gives a preliminary chairman-like rap with his hammer; the hum ceases, and the business at once commences.

These auctions generally consist of a collection of pictures, which, perhaps, has been the work of two or three generations of

one family, and which now, owing to pecuniary necessity, or a peculiar want of taste for art exhibited in the present representative, is dispersed and sold. Often, however, other pictures are included in the sales, it being found that paintings are always disposed of to much greater advantage when sold in company than singly. The taste of collecting works of art has become pretty general in England among those whose means will allow them to adopt it. The first collection of pictures in this country was formed by Henry VIII., and contained several of Holbein's *chef d'œuvres*. This collection was but small, and the first gallery of paintings on a large scale was formed by Charles I. From his youth he had been a picture-collector, and after coming to the throne he purchased the gallery of the Dukes of Mantua, one of the finest in Italy, for the sum of £80,000. The collection contained Raphaels, Correggios, Titians, and a Leonardo da Vinci, some of which ornament the National Gallery, but many have found their way to the Louvre. The Earl of Arundel was another celebrated collector about this period. You will read of no more collections being formed in England, until the middle of the eighteenth century, when the taste for art once more revived, and many galleries were commenced. The finest collection of all was that of Sir Robert Walpole, which was sold in the year 1780 to the Empress Catherine of Russia for the sum of £30,000. After the first French Revolution, many noble collections were imported into England, the best of all being the celebrated gallery of the Duke of Orleans, which was founded in the first half of the eighteenth century, and consisted of 485 of the choicest specimens of the Italian, Flemish, and French schools. Since then many excellent collections have passed under the hammer, and become dispersed, the best being those of Sir Luke Schaub, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir Simon Clarke, Watson Taylor, &c.



THE GOLDEN AGE.—(BY W. ETTY, R.A.)

fragile as not to be able to support the weight imposed on them? Here are some of those cows and sheep in a picture which Mr. Cooper calls "Canterbury on the Stour." The artist has been even more lucky in his subject than usual; for he has caught the exact features of the landscape, and every man of Kent will recognise the large flat fields, with the narrow placid stream winding in among them, which surround the old cathedral city. "Lake Como," by Stanfield, is also a gem of the first water. In his line there is no one to approach this artist, his colour is so excellent—his aerial perspective so marvellous—his foregrounds so picturesque and so crisply painted. Charming as his pictures are, there is nothing forced or pretty about them: they are simply and truly transcripts of nature under some of her most beautiful aspects. "Firs and Furze," by J. T. Linnell, is not a particularly pleasant picture; the treatment is too pre-Raphaelitish, and the

VILLAGE GIRL AND CHILD AT A SPRING.
(BY F. P. POOLE, A.R.A.)

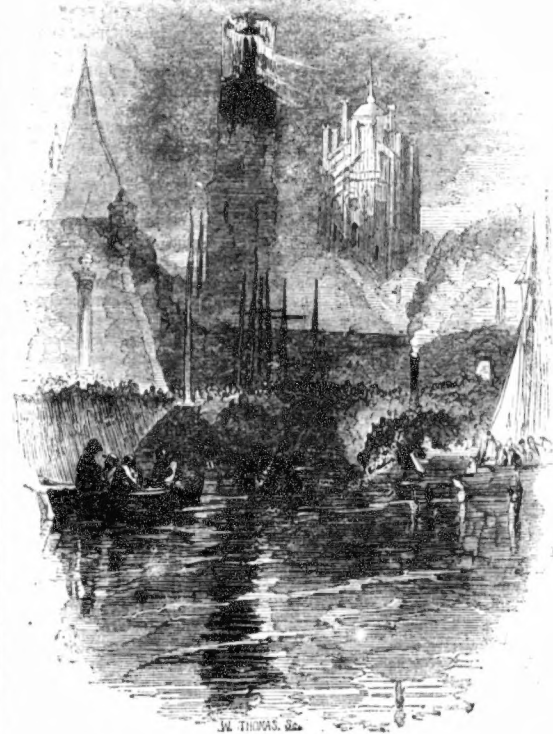
You will wonder what has led me into this long dissertation about art and art sales, and I daresay very few will have guessed to what point I am tending. Know, then, that on Wednesday the 27th and Thursday the 28th, Messrs. Foster are going to sell some first-rate water-colour drawings and oil paintings, selected from the well-known collection of Mr. Charles Birch, of Westfield House, Edgbaston, and that I have been permitted to have a private view of them. There certainly are some glorious specimens of English art at present lining the walls of Messrs. Foster's Sale Rooms in Pall Mall. Engravings of some of these are now before the reader. There is a picture by J. Linnell, which he calls "Gillingham"—Gillingham, among the salt marshes of Kent—but which, if we were called upon to name, we should style "The Ford,"—a glorious English landscape, with the effect of the setting sun on the water admirably rendered. Then there is Maclise's "La Fille mal gardée," so expressive that the story must surely be understood by a spectator guiltless of the French language; the pleading look of the lover, the conscious, half-averted glance of the girl, and the composed, sedate face of the old lady, are all perfect. In such a work, it is scarcely possible to individualise beauties, but the drawing of the girl's right arm struck me as being almost faultless. Who does not know Sidney Cooper, the English Cyp? Who has not seen those sleepy-looking cows, lazily chewing the cud, or bending down to drink, and switching their tails at the same time? Who does not know his sheep with their gray inane faces, their wonderful wool, and their legs that look as though they were so



"DARK EYES."—(BY JAMES SANT.)

effect of the protruding branches certainly not pleasing. Nevertheless, it is the work of an artist who looks at nature with an attentive eye, and seeks, with painstaking effort, to reproduce those minute and frequently transient beauties—those evanescent tints and shades that vary, not merely with the season's change, but even with each passing cloud or gleam of sunshine. Who but he could have painted that wide stretch of English landscape with the same apparent love for detail, combined with the same unmistakable breadth of effect? Then there is Etty's semi-classical "Golden Age," a half-dreamy

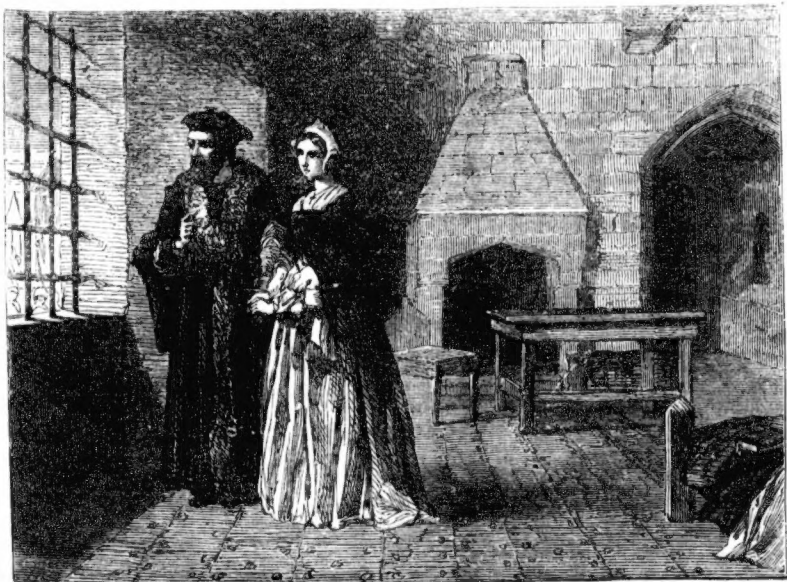
epicurean group, in which the flesh-tint of the females exhibits that profusion of ripe beauty which none save Etty seems to have known how to paint. A fine female half-length, by Mr. Sant, shows us a young lady with a melancholy expression of face, whose "Dark Eyes" give the name to the picture. The artist's attention has apparently been concentrated on these orbs, as the drapery is slightly painted to a degree. Mr. Poole's "Village Girl and Child at a Spring," is an idealised reproduction of what may be daily seen in rural life—idealised, because we don't often meet with such spiritual countenances among our village girls as Mr. Poole has limned. It is of a class of pictures certain to meet with ready purchasers; for every one can understand the simple and the graceful in art. In spite of its homeliness, the subject in Mr. Poole's hands is made to assume an aspect of rustic beauty that would charm even a cultivated eye. Then we have that drawing by Turner of the Calais light, about which Mr. Ruskin is perpetually raving. I being simply a man with eyes in my head, and no poet or mystical double-seer, can distinguish nothing in Turner's picture but slabs of red, surrounded by many slabs of blue and white, the colour sticking thickly on the paper, on which it has apparently been plastered by the palette-knife. This, I say, is all I can perceive; but I refer to the book, and seeing "Lighthouse," "Venice," "Shipwreck," &c., as the case may be, I take it for granted that I am wrong. I admit that, when viewed from a distance, these layers of colour, do assume a sort of indistinct resemblance to certain real objects; and I daresay it is possible to persuade one's-self that there is a fine poetical feeling displayed in this mode of treating a common-place subject. There is a capital picture by Herbert, of "Sir Thomas More



CALAIS LIGHTHOUSE.—(BY J. W. TURNER, R.A.)

in Prison attended by his Daughter." There is a grave, earnest, and simple character about this work. No needless accessories crowd the foreground—no subordinate incident intrudes itself to distract the attention from this farewell interview between the philosophic statesman and his amiable daughter, who has a place in history as his counsellor and friend. There is a magnificent drawing by Cattermole, which he calls "Venice," and which represents the arrival of a gondola at one of the waterside palaces. As in all of Cattermole's works, every thing is sacrificed to the purely picturesque. The varied groups, the gorgeous drapery, the rich colour, the massive masonry, the rippling water, the deep shadows, and the broad blaze of sunlight which brightens up the distant buildings—form a scene that possesses not an atom of individuality, but which Cattermole has handled with his usual success. Besides the works that I have enumerated, there are some admirable water-colour drawings by David Cox, Copley Fielding, Cattermole, De Wint, Jenkins, Lewis, Leitch, and, above all, two of Hunt's most wondrous representations of country boys, called the "Cricketer," and the "Cold Morning." The vigorous determination expressed in the face and shut mouth of the boy, who with his bat is making a "swipe" at the approaching ball, is perfectly marvellously rendered.

Mr. Birch is a well-known collector, who occasionally changes several of his pictures, buying others in their stead, so that his money may be said to be constantly in the Art market. It is not an unprofitable way of investment sometimes; as for instance—at last year's sale, Müller's "Slave Market," sold for £15 in 1841, fetched 195 guineas—Wilkie's "First Ear-ring," disposed of by its painter for £50 was handed over to its latest possessor for 295 guineas. The "Fleur



SIR THOMAS MORE AND HIS DAUGHTER.—(BY J. R. HERBERT, R.A.)



VENICE.—(BY G. CATTERMOLE.)

de-Lys" of Etty—concerning which and its fantastic frame, which latter cost £50, I was the other day reading in the painter's biography, that it was "knocked down" for 700 guineas; picture and frame having originally cost £150. Mr. Birch had only paid £147 for Constable's "Lock" in 1838. The landscape sold for 800 guineas. I think, Mr. Editor, you will agree with me that these per centages were tolerably fair.

In the same sale, are several well-known paintings, the property of other collectors, such as—Maclean's "Baron's Hall;" Linnell's "Windmill and Welsh Mountain Road;" "A River Scene," by Bonington; Constable's splendid picture of "The Barge;" Frith's "Scene from the 'Bourgeois Gentilhomme,'" which will be remembered as a great favourite at the recent Paris Exhibition; "Classical Nymphs," by Frost; Webster's "Smuggler's Cottage," and some twenty other pictures by artists of repute.

THE LOUNGER.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

A SECOND visit to the British Institution confirms my first impression, that the collection this year is rather above than below the average. To be sure there are some dreadful productions, but there are also many paintings which would do honour to the walls of the Academy. In the latter category I will include No. 48, "A part of the Lake of the Four Cantons, Switzerland," by Mr. T. Danby, one of the most beautiful landscapes which this popular artist has yet produced. Mr. J. Deare is one of those painters upon whom Mr. Ruskin pins his faith, and certainly his contribution, No. 161, "An English Landscape," bears out the great critic's opinion. The title is well chosen, too; it is a thoroughly English scene, and the painting possesses all the excellences of the pre-Raphaelite detail, without any of the glaring monstrosities of that school. "A River Bit, North Wales," by the same artist, is also good, but the sky has to me the effect of being too cold. Everybody interested in art knows Mr. Sant, the figure painter; in the present collection, his brother, Mr. G. Sant, has a landscape, No. 35, "On the River Mole, Surrey," which displays most excellent promise. Under the unmeaning title, "Severe Weather," No. 16, Mr. Andsell contributes a capital characteristic picture of a shepherd tending a portion of his snowed-up flock. I would especially commend the attitude and general appearance of the dog, which shows as much interest in the weather as his master. Mr. Andsell's chief fault appears to me his weakness for large canvases, more especially when we notice how effective he is in his smaller gems.

It is always pleasant to see the interior of a great name trading successfully in the paternal footsteps; Mr. George Stanfield's "Sion, Canton Vallais," No. 8, is a specimen of good real painting; the bit of the gateway with the mules passing through, is especially admirable. The title, "A Morning's Sport at Slapton Lea, Devonshire," No. 5, would lead you to expect some hunting or shooting scene, instead of which you will find a group of fish arranged as you may see them any day on Grove's counter, with apparently some fennel destined for their culinary garniture in the background. The subject, such as it is, is undeniably well treated; equally undeniable is it that both title and skill are woefully misplaced. In Nos. 172 and 176 we have two marine sunset pieces, by Messrs. J. Danby and Knell, both meritorious, though the effect of the latter is perhaps more rich and ruddy. Mr. E. J. Niemann in his view of "Guy's Cliffs, Warwick," No. 83, has apparently sketched the entire productions of Mr. Anthony, to which his sombre colouring has a great resemblance; and Mr. Cooke in his "Façade of San Giorgio, Venice," No. 15, has paid the same compliment to Canaletto, though I must confess there is a great deal of original talent in the warm tone of his composition. No. 99, "From our Owa Correspondent," by Mr. Hensley, is a sketch of real life—an old man listening to his grandchild's perusal of the "Times," very cleverly and naturally painted; and Mr. Jutsum deserves great credit for his "Timber clearing on the Hill-side, Sussex," No. 158; the treatment of the trees in the foreground, and the sky, showing great dexterity of manipulation.

An Associate of the Royal Scottish Academy, Mr. J. Giles, sends a wonderful contribution, "On the River Findhorn, Moray Frith—Autumn," No. 253, the picture presenting the general aspect of many gravelled walks interlacing a lake of blue ink. No. 418, "Molested," by Mr. Hopley, is clever, but curious—a young lady amazed during her perambulations by the forced attentions of a gentleman, whose hand and stick are alone represented. The scornful, indignant glance of the young girl, who is dropping her veil at the intrusion, is very well rendered. One of the most carefully-painted pictures in the collection is No. 358, "Interior, Ditton House," by Mr. Stanley, the effect of which is so good that the spectator might fancy himself standing in the room. It must, however, be a "commission" for the owner of the house, as the subject is utterly uninteresting to the general visitor. "Imogen and Iachimo," No. 361, is strongly pre-Raphaelite, and peculiarly offensive in the rugged ugliness of both the figures portrayed. Mr. H. J. Boddington cannot but paint well, however much he may repeat himself; every picture of his tends to inculcate a love of nature's beauties, and is an excellent reproduction of them; and to me it is a question whether there can be a higher, or at all events a more pleasing, aim in art. His "Close of a Summer's Day on the Thames," No. 533, is beautiful; the evening mist deepening over the sunset is perfectly natural, and the lilies in the foreground are studies in themselves. I much regret to see a very great falling off in Mr. Holland, at one time an artist of considerable excellence; his contributions this year, Nos. 357 and 445, are almost beyond the pale of criticism from their faultiness, both of conception and execution. Mr. Melby, a Dane, who made rather a hit last year at this Institution, has a grand, solemn, misty picture, No. 481, "Part of the Sognefjord in Norway;" and Mr. Dillon shows the result of his recent journey to the East in a clever David Robertsish picture, No. 276, "The Hypochoth Temple, Philoe, India."

The sculpture merits no particular notice. Yes! one subject, No. 555, "Hubert De Burgh, Esq., on a Crimean Pony;" from which I gather that a Crimean pony is uncommonly like an English hack, and that it is Mr. De Burgh's habit to wear his hat cocked on one side, to ride utterly without stirrups, and to carry a telescope in his hand.

THE LOUNGER.

THE RUGLEY POISONING CASES.—Since the termination of the inquiries before the Coroner into the circumstances attendant upon the death of the persons for the murder of whom Mr. William Palmer has been committed for trial, much additional information, it is said, has been obtained, which will be produced at the trial of the prisoner. In order that he may have every opportunity of knowing the nature of this additional evidence, it is intended that the examination of the prisoner shall take place before the magistrate, on a day yet to be fixed, when the whole of the evidence will be gone into, and the cases completed, for presentation of bills to the grand jury. The hearing of the case, it is expected, will take place in the Stafford County Prison.

SUICIDE OF AN ACTOR AT NEWCASTLE.—Mr. C. Shaw, one of the company engaged by Mr. Davis, of the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, committed suicide on Friday last week, by throwing himself into the river Tyne, from the parapet of the bridge. The deceased, who had been engaged for the two last seasons at that theatre, appeared for the last time on the theatrical stage on the Tuesday, when a manifest change was indicated in his character and manner. That did not, however, attract particular attention, as it was known that for some time past he had been indulging rather freely in alcoholic drinks. On the Wednesday, however, his uproarious conduct in the streets, where he shouted "murder," attracted the notice of the police, by whom he was taken into custody and conveyed to the police-station. On the Friday, it appears that he had gone to the Tyne Bridge, on the arch of which he stood a few minutes, then sprang upon the parapet, and plunged into the river below. At the inquest the jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity.

AN ATROCIOUS ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE A GENTLEMAN IN IRELAND.—The Sligo papers contain the following account of an attempt to assassinate Simon Armstrong, Esq., of Spring Villa—"It appears that Mr. Armstrong and his lady left Sligo on their own car for home, and when within half a mile of Dromahaire, they met two men, who saluted them, one of whom, however, as soon as the car passed, turned round and fired at them, lodging some slugs in Mr. Armstrong's back, and completely riddling his coat. Two men have been arrested, and Mr. Armstrong has identified one, named McGarry, as being the person who fired the shot. McGarry was formerly tried at Carrick as a murderer."

STRAHAN, PAUL, AND BATES BANKRUPTCY.—A dividend of 1s. 9d. in the pound is in course of payment under the joint estate, and a further dividend is expected to be paid in June next. A dividend of 9d. in the pound is also payable under each of the separate estates of Strahan and Paul, and of 1d. under the separate estate of Bates.

OUR INQUIRY IN CONNECTION WITH LIFE ASSURANCE.

(Continued from No. XXIV.)

OFFICE NO. XIV.

A GENTLEMAN who had for many years been secretary to one of the oldest offices in the country, in alluding to the desperate manner in which the majority of the young companies carried on their affairs, impressed upon us that so many of the "young offices" of one year ceased to be offices at all the next, any money they could receive from the public in the way of premiums was so much clear profit to them. Directly a claim was made against them they would dispute it, and, if the claim was made good, they would wind up the concern. These fraudulent companies naturally encouraged speculation in life, so that a vast amount of the "tampering" complained of could be checked, if no insurance offices were allowed to be started without proof being given of their *bond fides*. To give us some idea of the infamous manner in which life assurance companies were sometimes got up, he would mention a case in which some of the shareholders in an assurance company, were paid a shilling and a pot of beer to sign the deed; while one man, in connection with the same affair, stated before a Master in Chancery, that brandy and water had been given him to induce him to write the names of thirty or forty persons to powers of attorney. This enabled the getter-up of the company to execute the deed in their name. There had been many cases in which fictitious names appeared upon the deed of settlement, and it could not be expected that companies, started under such circumstances, would care what sort of lives they accepted, or in what manner they were proposed, provided they were sure to get a few of the premiums paid up. Some companies issued policies without being registered at all. Mr. P. (whose important and interesting evidence we published in the first portion of this inquiry), had done a great deal to expose companies of this kind. He (Mr. P.), had exposed at least a dozen companies in his evidence before the House of Commons. Now, they were all young companies—in fact, none of them could be said to have reached maturity; but the frauds were sometimes not discovered until the office had been in existence several years. It all depended upon how soon claims were made against them. Of course, if they received premiums on heavy policies, and none of their "lives" fell in for two or three years, it would be two or three years before the rottenness of the office was discovered. In one company whose fraudulent organisation had been exposed by Mr. P., out of eight persons named as directors, three had just passed through the Insolvent Court, while another, who was a captain in the Royal Navy, had never authorised the use of his name. With regard to the forty persons mentioned as shareholders, Mr. P. had made a statement, the details of which were so curious that it might be worth while to make some extracts from it. J. W., a coffee-broker, had been represented as holding 20 shares; he had never heard of the company. R. H., liquor merchant, 34, Hampstead Road, was down for 30 shares: "I was informed by the landlady," says Mr. P., "that she had occupied the house nineteen years, and that no such person as R. H. had ever lived there." R. R., of 12, Oxford Market, was said to hold 20 shares: "I inquired," continues Mr. P., "at every house in the market, but could not find him." W. J., plumber, Howland Street, 30 shares: "the occupier of the house never heard of such a person." H. S., printer, 7, Brook Street, New Road, 10 shares: "the landlady of No. 7 had never heard of such a man, and bundled me out of the house." E. J., saddler, of 32, Frederick Place, Hampstead Road, 10 shares: "he never resided there." H. B. S., accountant, of 26, Hunter Street, Brunswick Street, 50 shares: "I found his wife was a charwoman at the house, and that S. was a porter at the offices of the company." R. C. S., stationer, of Holborn Place, Peckham, 50 shares: "he could not be found at all." J. B., confectioner, 97, St. George's Road, 50 shares: "he had never signed his name for shares, and gave a very good reason—viz., that he could not make his mark." G. W., Market Place, Greenwich, 30 shares: "he kept a fish-stall, and had been employed to get names to the powers of attorney." W. M., 6, East Street, Greenwich, 20 shares: "he had signed for shares because a good many others did so." R. B.: "had signed as well as a great many others, for a pot of beer."

The above speculation was certainly brought to a close, but not until a certain amount of money had been received in premiums. If inquiries had not been made about them by Mr. P., for the "Post Magazine," directly after the issuing of the prospectus, the company might have swindled the public to a considerable extent; and as their only object was to grant policies, and obtain premiums, it was clear that they would not have been too particular in inquiring what interest one individual had in insuring another's life. In all cases where a sufficient amount of interest in the life of the assured could not be proved by the person effecting the assurance, the claim became void, or, at all events, could be disputed with a probability of success. For this reason, dishonest companies were not particular in making the proper inquiries, preferring to have a possible loop-hole by which to escape the payment of just demands.

OFFICE NO. XV.

The actuary of one of the long-established offices, after corroborating all that we have stated with regard to the recent increase in the amount of speculation in human life, assured us that the number of suspicious cases would be much diminished if all offices insisted on the amount of interest possessed by the assurer in the life of the assured being explicitly stated. This had always been required by the office with which he was connected. (Here our informant showed us one of the question-papers, in which the applicant for a policy on the life of another person is required to explain what interest he has in that person's life.) We inquired whether the question with regard to interest was put in the case of Irish insurances? and were answered in the affirmative. He had been told by many persons, that in Ireland no such interest need be proved, and a gentleman holding a distinguished position at the Irish Bar had lately assured him that such was the case, but his company left the question in their papers, because they considered it wrong to grant policies unless they knew the object with which they were applied for. He should be sorry to be connected with any office which did not always make a point of ascertaining what interest one person insuring another person's life really had in doing so. The new companies were certainly very careless, and they were beginning to suffer heavily for their recklessness. The worst of it was, that the public suffered at the same time. In spite of every precaution, frauds were still practised at the office with which he was connected. He knew that at that moment there were many persons living who had been represented to them as dead, and on whose lives they had had to pay. These cases of personation frequently occurred. The first case he remembered at the office was one of personation. An Irish girl, in excellent health, came up to London, and personated her sister, who was dying of consumption. In such a case as that the policy was assigned to another person, who gave, or pretended to give, value for it. It was impossible to prevent a person insuring his own life, and then assigning it, for a consideration, to another person; but it was easy to prevent an individual assuring the life of another in which he had an interest, by making all question-papers similar to those sent out by the office with which he was connected. Some of the young offices, however, preferred to have certain questions left open, as it enabled them to dispute claims under the pretext that the assurance had been illegally effected. It was impossible for the insurance companies to prosecute in all the suspicious cases which came before them. Many of the companies were even obliged to pay money when they knew—although they could not prove—that it was being obtained from them by fraud. He knew an instance of a man who had effected several heavy insurances in an office which was one day called upon to pay them; the office at first refused, but as there was a difficulty in proving against the claimant the crime of which he was suspected, they ultimately gave him £5,000 never to come near them again. His office had paid, at about the same time (in Cork), on two high policies, both of which had been fraudulently obtained. After they had paid one, the recipient, half confessing the deceit he had practised, put the company's agent in possession of facts which convinced him he ought not to pay on the other. The company, however, decided to pay the claim of K. (the second man), and afterwards proceeded against him for obtaining money under false pretences. K. was convicted, fined five hundred pounds, and imprisoned. The gentleman who was secretary to the office at the time had prosecuted, but he had since left.

On visiting the gentleman who had proceeded, in his capacity of secre-

tary, against the above-named K, we found him anxious to give every information on the subject. He promised to collect for us all the particulars of the case, which he considered the most extraordinary of the many extraordinary cases that have occurred in connection with life insurance in Ireland, and in the meanwhile referred us to another gentleman who had had much experience in Irish cases.

OFFICE NO. XVI.

This gentleman considered the amount of crime committed in Ireland in connection with life insurance to be very great. There was much temptation to tamper with lives, from the fact that the proprietor of a policy was not obliged to have any interest in the life. Mr. Fitzgerald had stated in the House of Commons that it was "a common thing" for a man in the humblest circumstances to be induced to assure his life. He would immediately go round to the public-houses, and it had been proved that a few hours after a man had effected an insurance on his own life he had sold it for a guinea and a new hat." In the Irish newspaper advertisements, policies for sale frequently appeared. Accounts were given in these advertisements of the condition of the lives, and it was sometimes stated that they were expected every day to die; so as to enhance the value of the policies. There were, however, plenty of bad cases in England, without going to Ireland. Cases occurred in which claims were refused by offices for reasons which they did not choose to state, but which the claimants perfectly well understood. In the case of Mrs. J. (particulars of which could be obtained at the — office), a man's life had been assured by a woman to whom he was going to be married. Some suspicious circumstances turning up, the lady was called upon to return the policy; and when the reasons for making the request had been explained to her, she at once did so.

(To be continued.)

LAW AND POLICE.

LORD CARDIGAN AT LOGGERHEADS WITH HIS AGENT.—On Saturday last, at Guildhall, before the Lord Chief Baron and a special jury, an action was brought by Major Lawrie, who sought to recover compensation from Lord Cardigan, for having wrongfully dismissed him from the situation of agent to the Noble Earl's estates in the counties of Northampton, Leicester, and York, without fair and reasonable notice, and also for services performed as agent for the Yorkshire property during nine months. Lord Cardigan, in his plea, denied the allegations contained in the declaration, justified the dismissal on the ground of refusal and neglect to comply with directions, and, furthermore, that the plaintiff had himself resigned the situation. With respect to the claim for services as agent to the Yorkshire property, his Lordship paid £150 into court, and pleaded beyond that amount "never indebted."

It appeared by the evidence of Major Lawrie that he formerly held a captaincy in Lord Cardigan's regiment, and that in the year 1847, being on the most intimate and friendly terms, his Lordship appointed him manager of his Northampton and Leicester property, at a salary of £400 per annum, with a house rent free. Shortly after his appointment, the duties became much heavier, in consequence of the death of the regular agent, and for two years he received an increase of salary, but about that period it was raised to £500 a year. Major Lawrie, at the same time, undertaking to audit the accounts of the agent of the Yorkshire estate for an additional £100 a year. In fact, Major Lawrie became the confidential manager of the entire property; so much so, that when Lord Cardigan was about to leave this country for the seat of war, he gave Major Lawrie a general power of attorney, with full directions to act for him in all emergencies should his reports and communications not be replied to within a reasonable time. With these directions Major Lawrie complied, and on the decease of the Yorkshire agent, and in default of an answer from his Lordship upon the subject, he had taken upon himself the general management of that property. At this Lord Cardigan expressed his satisfaction, and the greatest cordiality existed between them on the return of the Noble Lord to England, in February, 1855, shortly after which time all the accounts were submitted to and approved by him. However, on the 15th of that month, Major Lawrie, to his utter astonishment, received a number of complaints; the principal one being an expression of dissatisfaction at his alleged assumption of authority and a deficiency of respect, which should always be shown by an agent towards his employer. Major Lawrie thereupon replied, denying that he was deserving of the imputations cast upon him, and, after pointing out that under his management he had effected a saving, in eight years, of £60,000 in expenditure, as compared with the preceding eight years, wound up his letter by saying, that as he had lost his Lordship's confidence, he felt he could not any longer retain his office; and, therefore, must beg to retire. Upon this, Lord Cardigan wrote, stating that Major Lawrie had not lost his confidence, and that it was not his desire that he should resign; but added, that he was entitled to and claimed the customary rights of a proprietor, by calling for any details he might think proper, and that he only referred to retirement as an alternative. Subsequently to this, they met at their club, when Lord Cardigan bowed in a distant manner. However, they entered into a conversation, when Major Lawrie said he could see no reason why they could not meet as gentlemen, notwithstanding their former position of employer and agent having ceased; to which Lord Cardigan replied, that "He did not wish to know him, if he did not continue to act as his steward." After some further conversation, they separated, with the understanding that Major Lawrie was to write to his Lordship. This was on the 24th of February, and on the 25th he wrote, expressing an opinion that his services could by no means be acceptable, as he had lost his Lordship's confidence, and, therefore, begged to retire from the management of the property. The resignation was then accepted; Lord Cardigan calling upon him to deliver up his books, &c., to his successor, which was accordingly done on the 1st of March, when an audit of the accounts took place. Under these circumstances the present action was brought.

The Attorney-General having addressed the jury for the defendant, and the Chief Baron having summed up, the jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict for the plaintiff on all points, and awarded damages, as to the first, for £150; as to the second, £100; and on the third, £50.

The Chief Baron, on the application of the Attorney-General, stayed execution, in order to obtain the opinion of the Court upon his Lordship's ruling.

A SOLICITOR TAKING THE LAW INTO HIS OWN HANDS.—Mr. Warwick Augustus Hunt, solicitor, appeared at Bow Street, on Monday, to answer a summons charging him with assaulting Mr. George Jessel, a Chancery barrister.

Mr. Jessel deposed that, on the 9th inst., he had instructions to attend at the Examiner's Office, Rolls Yard, to cross-examine Hunt, who was a witness in a case before the Examiner, Mr. Parker. He put only such questions as were justified by his instructions. His questions related to certain alleged frauds. Hunt declined to answer most of the questions—some on the ground that they bore reference to proceedings against him then pending, and others on the ground that by answering them he would subject himself to penalties. The counsel on the other side requested Mr. Jessel to desist from putting to Hunt questions which it was evident he would not answer, and Mr. Jessel replied that he would "go through each of the frauds charged, and ask him questions upon each of them." On Hunt objecting to some question, on the ground that it would involve him in liability to penalties, Mr. Jessel asked what penalties, and something was said by the opposite counsel about striking a solicitor's name from the rolls, to which witness replied, "It might be very deservedly so, perhaps, but that would not make it a criminal offence." At the close of the examination, Hunt said to him, "I have heard of you before; you have made statements concerning me that you would not have made elsewhere, and you shall answer for it elsewhere." Mr. Jessel replied, "You are mistaken; if you attend at the hearing of the cause, you will hear much stronger observations made upon your conduct." Mr. Hunt was making some reply, when the Examiner said, this must not go on, or something to that effect. The examination closed at about half-past one o'clock. At about four, Mr. Jessel was at his chambers, in Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, when his clerk informed him that Mr. Hunt wanted to see him. He desired that Mr. Hunt should be shown in, and Hunt entered, accompanied by a gentleman, whom he supposed to be Mr. Hunt. Hunt came up to him, and said, "You treated me with disrespect this morning; I have come to ask for satisfaction." Mr. Jessel desired him to leave the room directly, and he said he would not till he had satisfaction. Mr. Jessel said to him, if he would not leave he would have him turned out, and ordered his clerk to fetch a policeman. Hunt made use of some strong expression, which he did not remember, and struck at him, but he avoided the blow by pushing his chair back, and left the room immediately. While he was in the clerk's room, repeating his order that a policeman should be sent for, Hunt came out of the inner room, and, meeting with some strong expression, and struck him. Mr. Jessel struck him in return, on the shoulder, he believed. He had only one hand free, the other being occupied with some papers. Hunt set upon him, and gave him several violent blows, by one of which he was thrown upon a chair. He was rather stunned. Hunt walked away. Mr. Jessel was sufficiently recovered to follow him to the door, where, seeing some person whom he mistook for a policeman, he desired him to take Hunt in charge. This turned out to be the hall-porter; the policeman did not arrive till after Hunt was gone. Mr. Jessel disavowed any vindictive feeling, and said that he only took these proceedings considering such to be his duty as a member of the legal profession.

The Counsel for Mr. Hunt having expressed regret on the part of his client for what had occurred, submitted that the case was one in which justice would be satisfied by the magistrate disposing of the charge summarily.

The Magistrate pointed out to Mr. Jessel that his jurisdiction was limited to a £5 fine, and put it to him whether he would indict at the sessions.

Mr. Jessel would not wish to do so, unless his Worship considered it his duty.

The Magistrate—Then, as you appeal to me, I certainly think it is. It would be a mockery of justice to fine a man £5 for such an offence.

Mr. Hunt was accordingly committed for trial.

A GIRL MURDERED IN ISLINGTON.

On Sunday afternoon, in consequence of private information, a police officer, Inspector Hutton and Sergeant Townsend, proceeded to No. 18, Linton Street, Newington, and knocked for admission, and asked if Mrs. Sommer lived there, and was at home. A servant girl in the hall, who replied in the affirmative, and the officers walked forward to the kitchen stairs, where they were met by a young woman ascending the passage, and a man descending from a back-parlour, from whence an instant before the tones of a piano-forte were heard to proceed. The inspector inquired of the woman if her name was Sommer. She answered, "Yes, what do you want?" The authority of the police was then shown, and the woman said, "For what purpose—who are you—and what do you mean?" She then rejoined the woman, who evinced a determination to oppose their progress, while the man stood by in apparent surprise without making any remark. Finally, the inspector and sergeant proceeded in their quest, crossed the kitchen and front area, where the inspector detained the parties, while his sergeant opened the door of a cellar, entered, and discovered lying on her back, a young girl, about fourteen years of age, dressed in a dark frock, old boots, not any bonnet, and the head nearly severed from the trunk, which lay in a pool of blood. The body was cold, and apparently had been taken place some hours before. On the discovery being mentioned to the presumed guilty parties, they both denied all knowledge of it, the woman remarking, "I did not know anything of it," but subsequently she said, "Oh, yes, I recollect. I heard a noise, but (addressing the man) would not mention it to you lest I should alarm you." When told that they were in custody, the female prisoner resisted, but eventually both were removed in a cab to the Robert Street station house. A valuable gold watch was taken from the male prisoner, but no marks of blood were seen; while on the woman's petticoat, dress, and stockings, several large stains of blood were discovered. The prisoner, who is a very pretty woman, has not manifested any feeling. She asserted herself to be a singer at St. Martin's Hall, and a card to that effect was found in her pocket. The man is a German, and by trade an engraver. The instrument with which the deed had been committed is supposed to have been a razor.

EXAMINATION AT CLERKENWELL POLICE COURT.

The two prisoners, Celestine Sommer, aged 26, and Charles Sommer, aged 29, were placed at the bar, charged on suspicion with the death of the girl referred to. The court was crowded to excess.

Inspector Hutton narrated the circumstances under which the arrest was made. Sergeant Townsend confirmed the Inspector's statement, and added—I took both prisoners to the station. I afterwards went back to the house, and made a careful search of the various rooms. On proceeding upstairs I went into the front room, which was used as a bedroom, and under the bed I found an old black gown with spots of blood upon it, and it appeared to have been partially washed out. I then went to the cellar with the surgeon, and found the door spotted with blood. There were also marks of blood on the kitchen door and on a wafer box. Upon making a further search, I discovered a spot of blood on the pillow of the bed in which the servant slept.

The male prisoner, when asked by Mr. Corrie if he wished to ask the witness any question, said, "No. It is not me. I said at the station-house that I did not know anything about it, and I again say here that I know nothing at all about it." The female, in answer to the same question, said, "No, I don't."

Rachel Mont, an interesting little girl, about 14 years of age, and who gave her evidence in a clear and artless manner, deposed as follows—I am a servant girl, living in the house, No. 18, Linton Street, Islington. I went into this service on the 15th of last September. On Saturday night, my mistress went out about ten o'clock, but before she did so, she said I was to go to bed. I did not go to bed, but sat up making myself an apron; that was in the kitchen. After my mistress had been out some time, I heard the key put in the street door, and then I put out the candle and got into bed. I heard my mistress come into the passage, and she had a female with her. She came to the top of the stairs, and said, "Are you a-bed, Rachel?" I made no answer. She then went upstairs, and afterwards came down and drew the kitchen blind down. She then left the kitchen, and said to the little girl, "Come down here." The girl did so, and then my mistress went into the cellar and told the girl to come to her, but the girl stopped at the kitchen door. She said, "I am not afraid, but it is a strange place to me. I have not been here before." When they were in the cellar, the little girl said some words to murder her, and my mistress said, "Shall I cut your throat?" The girl said, "Oh, you want to murder me," and called out "Murder" several times. She afterwards said, "The devil will take you, the devil will take you—you will kill me, you will kill me—I am dying, I am dying." My mistress said, "Hush," and I then heard a noise as if she was breathing hard. My mistress then put out the candle, came into the kitchen, walked about, and said, "I will kill you." She then lit the candle and went into the cellar again, but I never heard the girl speak again. Master was out at the time and did not return until one o'clock. I had seen the girl at the house one Sunday evening before. That was about a month ago. I know it was the same girl because I opened the street door, and heard my mistress tell the girl to wipe her feet and go into the parlour. She went in, and my mistress and the girl went out, and returned with a box, with three clasps. When my mistress went out with the girl, she had a large stone with her, wrapped up in a piece of cloth. My mistress told me to go to bed on that night, but I refused, when she took the girl away with her, and told me to stop up until she returned. That was the only occasion I ever saw the girl there. When my mistress went out on Saturday evening, she had the same dress on that she now has, but when she came into the kitchen she had an old black dress on. After all was quiet, my mistress came to my bedside, and said she had been to market, that she had got change of half-a-crown, but that she would not pay me until Sunday morning. My mistress then went up to bed, and I did not see her again that night. When she was talking to me at my bedside, she appeared to be very white and much agitated.

By Mr. Corrie—My mistress also said, in the kitchen, while she was talking about, "She will not tell any more lies about me."

Both prisoners declined to put any question to the witness. Rebecca Donnelly, searcher at Hoxton station-house, said—I searched the female prisoner. When I took her to the search-room she said, "What do you bring me here for? Is it to search me?" I said, "Yes!" She replied, "Oh, dear, that foolish girl has been talking. I have a cellar in my house without a plate. A girl was found there, stabbed with a knife; I cannot think how she came there, for my house was fastened up at 10 o'clock last night." While I was searching her she had taken her top dress off, and her petticoats from the forepart to the knee downwards, were covered with blood. The prisoner said, "I am subject to bleeding from my nose. I use my petticoat to it. My husband can tell you that he lent me a silk handkerchief."

The Magistrate said there was no evidence against the man, and he would be discharged. The female would be remanded for a week.

CONFESSION OF THE MURDERERS.

Immediately after the examination of the prisoners, the officers proceeded, in company with Karl Sommer, the husband, to a house, No. 4, Peter Street, Hackney Road, inhabited by a woman named Harrington, and her two daughters. Here it was ascertained that a child, aged ten years, who had been under the protection of Mrs. Harrington nearly from its birth, was taken away by its mother last Thursday week, because she declared her inability to continue longer the payment of 10s. a month for its keep. The officers next went to 18, Murray Street, New North Road (adjoining the house occupied a short time since by Mary McNeil, who murdered her two children there), and found it occupied by a sister of the prisoner, whose husband is also a German, and engraver. Here they learned, that on the evening of the day the girl had been taken from Mrs. Harrington, she was brought by the prisoner, and kept until ten o'clock last Saturday night, when the wretched woman took her child away, without

shawl or bonnet, under the pretext that she had obtained a place for her at a greengrocer's in the neighbourhood; finally, Mrs. Harrington, Mr. Sommer, and the girl, who were to the scene of the murder, and the girl there identified the victim, who was lying on the servant's bed in the kitchen, to be the same child she had reared from its infancy. She said that the child went by the name of "Celestina Christmas," and subsequent inquiries elicited the fact of that having been the maiden name of Mrs. Sommer, whose parents are most respectable silversmiths in King Square, Goswell Street Road. A direct confession of the murder has since been made by the miserable parent, she alleging that the act was committed with a knife, and that she was impelled to the commission of it by the frequent quarrels with her husband, who was obliged to pay 5s. a week for his keep, but at the same time she asserts it to be her brother's offspring. Mr. Sommer distinctly denies this, and states that 2s. 6d. a week only was paid by him by agreement before his marriage with the prisoner, and that such sum was always paid willingly by him.

The prisoner has not made any remark relative to how she has disposed of the knife, nor can any clue be found to the place of its deposit. She has been married two years, and Mr. Sommer's circumstances are very respectable. The house, No. 18, is elaborately furnished.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

The announcement of a new English loan for £5,000,000 in 3 per cent stock, and the funding £3,000,000 exchequer bills, have had considerable influence upon prices of national stocks this week. Great fluctuations have taken place in them; but as the amount named is small, and indicative of peace, the fall in the quotations has been easily recovered, and an advance has been reported—consols having touched 91½ for the account. We consider the bidding price for the new loan to be 89, at which it will, no doubt, be taken; and we are of opinion that some judgment has been exercised in withdrawing from the market a portion of the unfunded debt, which, from the great scarcity of money, has long been at a discount. Some excitement, however, has been caused by the short period allowed for payments; but it must be understood that interest will commence from the 5th of last month, and the loan is not in excess of last year, considering the period over which the loan of 1855 was spread. The total amount of the unfunded debt about is now £23,000,000. The following are the leading prices of stock during the week:—Bank stock, 213½; 3 per cents reduced, 90½; consols, for money, 90½; ditto, for the account, 91; new 3 per cents, 91½; long annuities, 1860, 3½; ditto, 1855, 16½; exchequer bills, par to 5s; ditto, exchequer bonds, 98.

In foreign bonds, about an average business has been transacted. Brazilian 5 per cents, 108; Ecuador, 5; Grenada deferred, 6½; Mexican 3 per cents, 20½; Russian 5 per cents, 105; Spanish 3 per cents, 42½; ditto deferred, 23½; Turkish 6 per cents, 93½; ditto 4 per cents, 100½; Venezuela 4½ per cents, 29½; ditto deferred, 12; French 3 per cents, 74½; Dutch 2½ per cents, 63½.

Mining shares have been rather heavy. Copiapo have marked 23; and United Mexican, 34.

Miscellaneous securities have continued steady. Canada 6 per cents, 109½; General Screw Steam Shipping Company, 17½; North of Europe Steam, 15½; Victoria 6 per cents, 105. The dealings in the railway share market have been very moderate. Prices, however, have ruled tolerably firm. Bristol and Exeter have realised 87; Caledonian, 55½; Eastern Counties, 10½; Great Northern, 92; Great Western, 108½; London and Brighton, 97½; London and North Western, 101½; London and South Western, 93 ex div.; Midland, 70½; Norfolk, 50½; South Eastern, 64½.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The arrivals of English wheat up to our market, this week, have been but moderate, though in improved condition. All kinds have sold steadily, at an advance in the quotations of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Foreign wheat has been in improved request, at very full prices. The barley trade has slightly recovered from the late depression, and fine malting parcels have been held for more money. The malt trade, however, has continued dull, at barely the late decline in value. There has been an improved feeling in the oat trade, and the currencies have risen fully 6d. per quarter. Beans have sold slowly on former terms. Gray and maple peas have produced full prices, but white qualities have given way 2s. per quarter. The flour trade has been steady, at late rates.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Essex and Kent White Wheat, 60s. to 82s.; ditto, Red, 54s. to 77s.; Malting Barley, 32s. to 38s.; Distilling ditto, 32s. to 35s.; Grinding ditto, 31s. to 36s.; Malt, 58s. to 77s.; Rye, 48s. to 50s.; Feed Oats, 23s. to 28s.; Potato ditto, 25s. to 31s.; Tick Beans, 33s. to 36s.; Pigeon, 39s. to 46s.; White Peas, 42s. to 46s.; Maple, 34s. to 37s.; Gray, 33s. to 37s. per quarter. Town-made Flour, 65s. to 67s.; Town Households, 55s. to 58s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 50s. to 52s. per 280lbs.

CATTLE.—The supply of beasts on sale in the metropolitan market have been but moderate. All kinds have sold briskly, at an advance in the quotations of fully 2d. per 8lbs. There has been an improved feeling in the demand for sheep, the value of which has advanced 2d. per 8lbs. Calves have moved off briskly, at 4d. per 8lbs. more money, with very limited supplies on offer. Pigs have realised very full prices. Beef, from 3s. to 4s. 8d.; mutton, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 10d.; veal, 4s. 6d. to 6s.; pork, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 10d. per 8lbs. to sink the offer.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.—The supplies of each kind of meat have rather decreased, and the trade has been rather active, as follows:—Beef, from 2s. 8d. to 4s. 2d.; mutton 2s. 8d. to 4s. 4d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 4d.; pork, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 10d. per 8lbs. by the carcass.

TEA.—Owing to the large supplies on offer, our market is very inactive, and prices are barely supported. The clearances of late have been unusually extensive. Congou, 9d. to 2s. 7d.; Ning Yung and Oolong, 10d. to 1s. 9d.; Souchong, 7d. to 2s. 8d.; Flowery Pekoe, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 6d.; Caper, 1s. to 1s. 3d.; Scented Caper, 1s. to 1s. 8d.; Orange Pekoe, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.; Scented Orange Pekoe, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 9d.; Twankay, 8d. to 1s. 2d.; Hyson skin, 7d. to 1s.; Hyson, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 9d.; Young Hyson, 9d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. to 2s. 9d.; Gunpowder, 1s. to 3s. 6d.; Assam, 1s. to 4s. 4d. per lb.

SUGAR.—Since our last report, the transactions in all raw sugars have been very limited, and further reduced rates have been submitted to by the importers. The stock is still on the increase, and the imports are seasonably good. Refined goods are dull, and brown lumps may be purchased at 47s. per cwt.

MOLASSES.—Great inactivity continues to prevail in the demand. Prices range from 18s. to 21s. per cwt.

COFFEE.—We have to report a slow sale for all kinds, and good old native Ceylon is freely offered at 51s. per cwt.

COCOA.—West India qualities are tolerably firm, at full quotations; but foreign parcels command very little attention. Red Trinidad, 49s. 6d. to 54s.; St. Lucia, 43s. to 44s.; Bahia and Fera, 40s. to 43s.; Guayquil, 48s. to 49s. per cwt.

RICE.—Our market is firm, and fine qualities are considered the turn dealer. White Bengal is selling at 11s. 6d. to 13s. 6d.; Arracan and Madras, 10s. 6d. to 12s.; Bombay, 10s. to 11s. per cwt.

FRUITS.—Currants are in fair request, at fully last week's quotations; but raisins command very little attention. Muscatels have realised 36s. to 42s.; Turkey figs, 36s. to 42s. per cwt. All other fruit—the supply of which is but moderate—is very slow in sale.

SPIRITS.—About an average business is passing in the market for Rum. Proof Lecwards, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 5d.; East India, 2s. to 2s. 1d. per gallon; Jamaica, 3s. to 3s. 5d. per cwt. overproof, to be sold at 4s. 8d. to 5s. 4d. The stock is now about 5,000 puns. in excess of last year. Brandy is very slow in sale, at barely late rates. Sales of Cognac, best brands of 1851, 10s. 4d. to 10s. 6d.; 1850 do., 10s. 5d. to 10s. 7d.; older, 11s. to 11s. 6d.; and low to middling, 6s. 6d. to 10s. 2d. per gallon. Gin, 17d. under proof, 9s. 10d.; raw spirit, 10s. 6d.; Geneva, 2s. 9d. to 3s. 8d. per gallon.

COTTON.—The demand is still firm, and the late advance in prices is well supported. Surat, 3½d. to 4½d.; Bengal, 3½d. to 4d.; and Madras, 4½d. to 4½d. per lb.

INDIGO.—Great firmness prevails in the biddings at the public sales; about two thirds of the quantity brought forward up to date has been found buyers, at from 2d. to 1s. per lb. above the late sales' rates. Privately, the market is healthy, and Spanish Indigo is dearer.

WOOL.—The public sales of Colonial wool continue to be well attended by buyers, and the biddings are brisk, at prices varying from 2d. to 2½d. per lb. above previous quotations. English wools are in request, and rather dearer, fine qualities being worth 1s. 4d. per lb.

HEMP AND FLAX.—All kinds of hemp are very dull in sale, and Petersburg hemp is nominally quoted at £37 to £38 per ton. Flax is in fair request, at full quotations. Jute and Coir goods are very dull.

SALTPETRE.—Only a limited business is doing in this article, and prices have a downward tendency. The stock is now 4,591 tons, against 11,754 tons in 1855, and 3,395 tons in 1854.

NITRATE OF SODA.—We have sellers at 18s. 6d. per cwt. LINSEED.—The demand is exceedingly heavy, and prices continue to give way. The imports from India continue extensive.

METALS.—Scotch pig iron has sold heavily, at 66s. to 67s. on the spot. Rails, at the works, £8 2s. 6d. to £8 5s.; sheets, single, in London, £11 5s. to £11 10s. per ton. Tin is firm. Banca, 130s.; Straits, 129s. to 129s. 6d.; refined, 134s. to 135s. Tin plates are steady. L. C. coke, 30s. to 31s.; I. X. ditto, 36s. 6d. to 37s. per box. Lead is tolerably active. British pig, £25 10s. to £26 per ton. Spelter, £23 10s. to £24.

OILS.—There is more firmness in the demand for linseed oil, at 34s. per cwt. on the spot. Refined rape moves off slowly, at 50s.; brown, 46s. 6d. to 47s. Cocoa-nut is heavy; Cochin at 38s. 6d. to 39s. 6d.; and Ceylon, 37s. to 38s. per cwt. Palm, 40s. to 42s. Turpentine is inactive. Rough, 9s. 6d. to 10s.; English spirits, 33s. 6d.; American, 35s. per cwt.

TALLOW.—The speculative price of P.Y.C., on the spot, is 60s.; but tallow of equal quality may be had at 52s. per cwt. Rough fat, 2s. 10d. per 8lbs. The stock of tallow is 23,117 casks, against 37,160 ditto in 1855; 36,952 in 1854; 38,335 in 1853; and 52,785 in 1852.

COALS.—Tanfield Moor, 16s. 3d.; Wylam, 15s.; Gosforth, 15s. 9d.; Hilda, 15s. 3d.; Eden Main, 17s.; Hetton, 18s. 6d.; Stewart's, 18s. 6d.; Cassop, 16s. 6d.; Tees, 18s. 6d. per ton.

LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

BANKRUPT.—GEORGE WESTBURY HALL, Bush Lane, City, merchant—THOMAS JOHNSON, Kensington Gravel Pits, victualler—ALFRED WILLIAMS and WILLIAM MAJOR HOLLAND, Duncan Street, Leaman Street, Whitechapel, wholesale grocers—WILLIAM BELL ROBERTSON, Red Cross Square, Cripplegate, mourning hat-band manufacturer—GEORGE FREDERICK CORHAM, Milton-next-Gravesend, carpenter—PHILIP DAVIES, Abernethy, Glamorganshire, grocer—CHARLES HUMPHRIES, Fenny Compton, Warwickshire, victualler—THOMAS BRAMICH, Harborne, Staffordshire, corn dealer—ALFRED PINNINGER, Lydney, Gloucester, draper—WILLIAM GOULSTONE, Bedminster and Bristol, auctioneer—JOHN WOOD and WAINMAN WOOD, Millbridge, Yorkshire, machine makers—HENRY MEREDITH JONES, Liverpool, merchant, outfitter, and dealer in tents.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. WALKER, and J. BRYSON, Glasgow, warehousemen—J. R. LAMB and G. M. PLAYFAIR, Glasgow, confectioners—W. MUDIE, Lumbarn and Glasgow, colour manufacturer.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

BANKRUPT.—JAMES WHITE, Brentwood, Essex, carpenter—CHARLES WOLF, St. Paul's Churchyard, cook and confectioner—THOMAS STUBTON and EDWARD KEY, Holbeach, scriveners—JOSEPH EDGE, Kidderminster, carpet manufacturer—WILLIAM WELCH, Birmingham, packing case maker—JAMES TURNER, Bishopsgate Street, baker—FRANCIS LOUIS SIMOND, Cullum Street, City, merchant—THOMAS BANN, Liverpool, clothier and outfitter—DAVID DAVIS, Merthyl Tydfil, general shop keeper—WILLIAM MASSA, Sheffield, hatter—HENRY ANDREW, Tyldesley, Lancaster, shopkeeper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—THOMAS ROBERTSON, Main Street, Glasgow, baker—WILLIAM RODGER, Glasgow, sometime writer, thereafter tea merchant—WILLIAM HORN, Glasgow, fisher—THOMAS BOWIE, Forres, shoemaker and leather merchant—WILLIAM KENNEDY, India Place, Edinburgh, grocer—ANDREW WATT, Nungate, Haddington, farmer and baker.

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